

Cabinet hits back over Westland

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday launched a counter-attack over the Westland affair by casting doubt on the competence of the Commons Select Committee on Defence to criticize the way Sir Robert Armstrong, the head of the Civil Service, and other senior officials had carried out their duties.

In a short Commons debate initiated by Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, the Government rejected the committee's criticisms in its report issued on Thursday.

Mr Richard Luce, the Minister of State at the Privy Council Office, spoke of the high degree of leadership and integrity shown by Sir Robert. He told MPs that the Prime Minister had asked him to express his "total confidence" in Sir Robert and Mr Bernard Ingham, his chief press secretary, who was also criticized in the report.

Senior Cabinet ministers expressed surprise that a committee of backbench MPs should have "trespassed" on how the head of the Home Civil Service carried out his work. It was said that most of the 11 members of the committee had little experience of government and could have very little knowledge of how Sir Robert worked.

Their criticisms were totally unfounded, according to ministers close to Mrs Thatcher.

Sir Humphrey Atkins, the chairman, is the only member of the committee to have held Cabinet rank. Mr John Gilbert, the senior Labour member, was Minister of State for Defence and Financial Secretary to the Treasury in the last Labour Government. Two



Mr Dalyell: onslaught on Mrs Thatcher.

other members are former junior ministers. In the Commons, Mr Luce said MPs should reflect upon the growing tendency for officials to be summoned before committees for their individual conduct to be examined.

His remarks were preceded by another blistering personal attack on the Prime Minister by Mr Dalyell, who said the letter written by the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew,

was always intended to be leaked to do down Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence.

He said that Mrs Thatcher, Mr Leon Brittan, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Ingham had cooked up the scheme of getting one of the law officers to send a letter which they intended to leak.

The specific charge against the Prime Minister was that the dirty work, the decision to leak, took place before it was suggested to the Solicitor General that he should write a letter. The affair showed that Mrs Thatcher "is unsuitable to lead one of the great parties of the country".

A review of the accountability of Civil Servants was urged yesterday after the select committee's report on the Westland helicopter affair.

The call came from Mr John Ward, general secretary of the First Division Association, which represents top civil servants. "At the moment they are in an impossible position," Mr Ward, who described the report as "unfair", said.

"According to the conventions, Civil Servants are supposed to do what ministers tell them. If Parliament thinks that this is the wrong way of going about it, we need to start from scratch and discuss who is accountable to whom," Mr Ward said on BBC Breakfast Television.



Bruce French, the England wicket keeper, being carried semi-conscious from the field...

Howe says peace bid should go on

From Michael Hornsby, Gaborone

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday that his EEC peace mission in southern Africa was still worth pursuing despite scant evidence of progress and Thursday night's public verbal drubbing from President Kaunda of Zambia.

But for the first time Sir Geoffrey admitted that he might have nothing to show for his travels by the time of the Commonwealth conference in London on August 3-5, where Mrs Thatcher will be fighting a lone battle to save off further economic sanctions against South Africa.

At a press conference at Lusaka airport en route to Botswana, Sir Geoffrey called on Pretoria to make "a leap of imagination and courage" by freeing Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader, and by lifting the ban on the ANC and other outlawed black political organizations.

Sir Geoffrey had a far more congenial reception in Botswana where President, Dr Quett Masire, though not a friend of apartheid, is opposed to economic sanctions. The Foreign Secretary said until the end of September to report back to EEC member states, which are pledged to consult other industrialized nations on further economic measures against South Africa.

President Kaunda yesterday said that nothing Sir Geoffrey had told him about his meeting with President Botha last Wednesday in Pretoria gave grounds for optimism that progress was possible.

"I can see no succour, no hope at all from what Sir Geoffrey told me. By his standards, by the standards of the Ronald Reagans of this world, and the Margaret Thatchers of this world, maybe he can obtain something, but nothing at all to bring hope to my troubled mind - nothing at all," he said.

In line with an agreement to keep their exchanges confidential, Sir Geoffrey himself has not disclosed any details of his talks with President Botha, whom he is to meet again next Tuesday.

The Foreign Secretary said he did not see his mission as "coming to a conclusion at the end of this leg", implying the possibility of further visits to South Africa, possibly in September.

He defended his pithy response to President Kaunda's public harangue on Thursday night, maintaining that to have "walked out or barked the table" would have been "absolutely the wrong kind of diplomacy. Diplomacy is not a series of walk-outs. It is a series of talk-throughs."

He considered that he had been "perfectly explicit and vigorous" in rejecting President Kaunda's main accusation - that Britain and the US were conspiring to preserve white rule in South Africa. Senate pressure, page 5

Behind the stumps again at 45

By John Woodcock

Bob Taylor, the former Derbyshire and England wicket keeper, found himself playing in a Test match again yesterday. It happened at Lord's after Bruce French, the chosen wicket keeper, had been hit while batting.

Taylor, 45 last week, was present as a public relations officer for Cornhill, sponsors of the Test series against New Zealand. He was about to have lunch when Mike Gatting, the England captain, ran across to ask him to get changed and keep wicket. Such a substitution is thought to be unprecedented in a Test.

Taylor, who played the last of his 57 Tests in 1984, holds the record of 1,471 first-class dismissals. In London he wore Regent's Park, and he played yesterday as though it were still his livelihood.

Though French was wearing a helmet when hit by a ball from Richard Hadlee, he needed three stitches in his head after turning away from a rising ball.

"I can't remember anything about it, really," he said, "although I don't think I ever actually lost consciousness. I was trying to move my arms and legs but they wouldn't respond and I couldn't speak either. It was a weird feeling."

"The Queen (who was making her annual visit to Lord's) didn't say anything to me about it, but Richard Hadlee popped his head round the door to check I was all right."

French hopes to play today, when he will hear comparison with Taylor only because he, too, is so good at the job. Test details, page 32

Police claim success for Brixton raids

By Craig Seton

One of the most meticulously planned police anti-drugs operations mounted in Britain was behind the series of raids in Brixton, south-west London. Senior officers believe they have smashed a major ring dealing increasingly in hard drugs.

"Operation Condor" was backed up by a wide-scale public relations campaign in the sensitive "front line" area of Brixton to reassure local people and prevent a repetition of last September's violence and rioting.

It was launched on Thursday afternoon after weeks of detailed and secret planning and undercover surveillance by drug squad officers, who had suspected that black drug pushers were increasingly dealing in hard drugs brought in from the new source of Nigeria.

Suspected drug dealers from other parts of Britain, including the Handsworth area of Birmingham and Bristol, were secretly filmed by the undercover officers.

Sixty-five people were arrested in the operation, which had been kept secret from all but those immediately involved. It involved 340 officers brought in by a special train and in four British Road Services lorries. They sealed off the Afro-Caribbean Club in Railton Road, which detectives believed had been taken over and used as a distribution centre by drug dealers.

One of the police officers involved in the raid said: "It was a beautiful operation. There was no trouble and no aggravation. It went like a dream."

Another 1,500 police officers equipped with riot gear, together with more than 20 armed officers from Scotland Yard's D11 firearms unit, stood by in the area in case of riots. They were not told until the last moment that the operation was taking place in Brixton.

Police are believed to have seized a large quantity of drugs, including cocaine and heroin and large amounts of cannabis, which they believe justified the operation.

They also say they found a 9mm Browning pistol and four rounds of ammunition hidden in a drawer at the Afro-Caribbean Club, where 30 people were arrested. Raids took place at more than 20 other locations in the area, and machetes and knives are said to have been discovered.

The raids were immediately condemned as designed to provoke by Miss Linda Bellos, the leader of Lambeth council, who said that the police had launched an unnecessarily large operation in order to show off and try out their new techniques and equipment.

The meticulous planning of the raids started early in June when undercover drug squad officers from Brixton started detailed surveillance of the Afro-Caribbean Club, using video and long-range cameras to identify suspected drug dealers using the centre.

Only a few senior officers were involved in the planning of the raid. British Rail police secretly arranged to supply a four-carriage commuter train for the operation.

Seventy uniformed policemen boarded the train at a suburban station south of Brixton and other normal services were re-arranged to enable the train to arrive at precisely 4.30pm on the main Clapham to Victoria line, which runs along the rear of the club.

A wire fence surrounding the building had been cut in. Continued on page 16, col 1

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Report on poverty too late for MPs

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

The Government faced a new political outcry last night over the "underhand" manner in which it released figures suggesting that more than 10 million people in Britain are now living on or below the poverty line.

Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, who has been campaigning for 18 months for the Government to publish its 1983 poverty tables, was told in a written reply delivered to the Commons after the House had risen for the summer recess that the tables were now in the Commons library.

The Government had given no warning that the figures were about to be published and the figures were deposited in the library shortly before it closed for the day.

They showed that in 1979 there were 5.9 million people living on or below the poverty line. In 1981 there were 7.6 million and in 1983 10.2 million. Mr Field estimated that the present figure was around 10.2 million.

He said: "These figures should have been released last year. The Government did not want them released because they show that poverty is the only boom industry under the Conservative Government."

"The way they tried to slip it out after MPs had left for their constituencies was the most blatant and deliberate attempt to prevent the public knowing what has happened. I have been trying for months to get these figures but have been constantly fobbed off with written replies."

The poverty line is defined for a single person as £29.40 a week and for a married couple £49.80 a week.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, Liberal spokesman on social services, said last night that he was not surprised that the Conservatives were embarrassed by the figures.

He said: "They are a mark of condemnation of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her policies, which have forced millions more below the poverty line while the rich get richer."

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Bomber secrets lost

Washington - The Lockheed Corporation has lost nearly 1,500 secret documents believed to be related to the super-sonic stealth bomber (Christopher Thomas writes).

Mr Lawrence Kitchen, chairman of Lockheed, told a congressional hearing into how defence contractors handle secret documents: "Our internal laxness is inexcusable. We had not maintained proper administrative control over classified documents."

Mr Kitchen said preliminary indications were that classified material had not been compromised. Only one document was "top secret".

A stealth bomber crashed in California two weeks ago. The aircraft can apparently dodge radar detection.

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Mob sacks Moroccan Embassy

From Robert Fisk

Up to two thousand members of the Hezbollah "Party of God" movement in Lebanon yesterday sacked the Moroccan Embassy in west Beirut in the most violent demonstration against the Israeli-Moroccan talks to have taken place in the Arab world.

Led by Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Amin, leader of the Hezbollah in the Lebanese capital, the mob smashed windows and broke into offices to set fire to files.

Demonstrators - unhindered by the Lebanese and Syrian troops operating the new "security" plan in the city - seized hundreds of documents in the office of Mr Abdul-Karim Bannani, the Ambassador, and burnt them together with papers from other embassy departments.

Hundreds of Hezbollah demonstrators climbed the walls of the embassy and set fire to portraits of King Hassan before hurling furniture from the windows. Lebanese police officers outside the building stood by helplessly, claiming - truthfully but typically - that they were hopelessly outnumbered and could therefore do nothing to prevent the sacking. Lebanese fire authorities managed to enter the four-storey building before the flames took hold.

West Bank "offer", page 5

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Women take over from bowler-hatted taxman

By Richard Thomson

In a perfectly functioning tax office the average taxpayer can expect to be served courteously, considerately and promptly by a woman between the ages of 21 and 25 who is not wearing a pin-striped suit, earns between £100 and £140 a week and assumes one is being honest about one's tax affairs.

The taxpayer is unlikely to get the chance to talk to this Taxwoman twice, however, because she will probably have resigned in the interval.

The revelation that the Taxman is actually a Taxwoman is contained in the Inland Revenue's latest annual report (the 128th), published yesterday. Research shows that 59 per cent of Revenue personnel are women, 56 per cent are under 35 years old and most of these are younger than 25.

The old stereotype may still lurk on the upper floors of Somerset House, since the higher Revenue posts are still held by men (a 55 per cent majority at head office). Women make up the majority of the younger, clerical grades. The Revenue is, however, suffering an ever increasing number of resignations among its senior (male) tax inspectors.

A graph in the report gloomily entitled "Resignation Rates for Tax Inspectors", shows a red line rising steeply from 1 per cent in 1983 to 5 per cent in 1986. It costs £40,000 to train a fully qualified tax inspector and £20,000 for other inspectors. Inevitably, it is the tax

inspectors who are more likely to resign.

One reason could be that administrative improvements at the Revenue last year led, by October, to the biggest backlog of arrears in the department's history. The improvements included greater computerization and the reduction in the number of local tax offices and collection offices. But the report promises that the changes will pave the way for greater efficiency in the future. "Time will tell."

The department's tax take was just over £50 billion last year, collected at an administrative cost of 1.66 per cent of total yield, the lowest since records began in 1974. Efforts to beat the tax evaders of the black economy met with increasing success.

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Monday Music in the round



Pavarotti, the world's greatest tenor, looks forward to filling the Wembley arena

Portfolio Gold

There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize of £2,000 plus the daily £4,000. The £24,000 prize yesterday was won outright by Mr D.J. Strickland, of Epsom, Surrey.

Portfolio lists, pages 16 and 21; rules and how to play, page 26.

Two escape in balloon crash

Two men escaped injury yesterday when their hot air balloon crashed-landed into a lamppost in Torquay, Devon, after grazing a church spire.

Firemen used a turntable ladder to release the pilot, Mr Dave Seager-Thomas, and Mr Mike Westcott, aged 19, who was stuck half-way up the lamppost in the basket.

The share-out

Five million customers of the Trustee Savings Bank will be eligible for shares in the bank when they are issued.

Oxford exams

Oxford Class Lists and degrees awarded by Essex University are published today. Page 27

Home News 23, 24; Overseas 45; Arts 15, 16; Religion 8; Science 15; Sports 15; TV & Radio 27-28; Weather 16

52 sports grounds must meet new safety rules to be allowed crowds

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Test cricket grounds, the Cardiff Arms Park rugby stadium and 26 football clubs are among 52 more sports grounds that must apply from next month for local authority safety certificates, the Government announced yesterday.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, was implementing the recommendation of the Popplewell inquiry into sports ground safety that all grounds and stadiums with crowd capacities of more than 10,000 should be designated and require safety certificates if they wish to continue to admit spectators.

The requirement, which comes into force on August 23, came on the day that the Government confirmed a dramatic reduction in hooliganism at first and second division football grounds last season.

According to figures issued in a parliamentary reply, arrests at first division matches fell by 51 per cent and ejections from grounds by 33

per cent last season, although attendances dropped by 8 per cent.

In the second division there was a 41 per cent fall in the numbers arrested and 30 per cent fewer ejections. There was a 12 per cent drop in attendances.

Of the grounds affected by the new designation order under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, 1975, 26 are football, 16 rugby union, three rugby league and seven cricket.

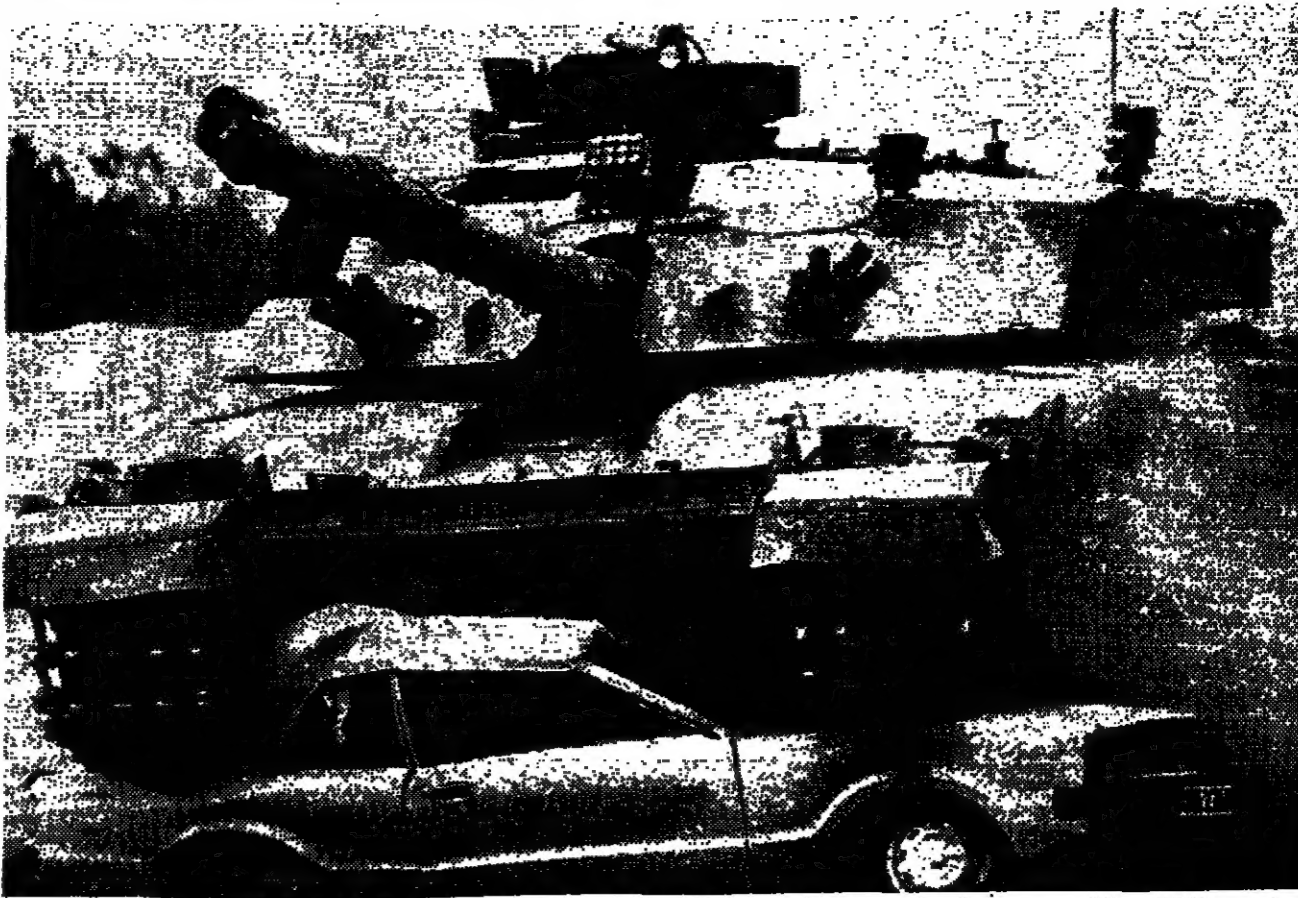
Mr Richard Faulkner, secretary of the Football Trust which assists clubs on ground safety, said last night that many of the clubs newly listed will reduce their ground capacity below 10,000 to escape designation.

"For clubs which normally have just a few hundred spectators, to spend perhaps £200,000 to £300,000 to meet designation requirements is a waste of money," he said. Meanwhile, Mr Richard Tracey, the Minister for Sport,

announced yesterday that the Government will be sponsoring a seminar in the autumn on sport in schools.

The grounds of clubs affected by the new safety rules are: Football: Barnet, Nuneaton Borough, Bath City, Poole, Berwick Rangers, Southall, Billingham Synthonia, Southport, Boston, Sutton, Chelmsford, Telford, Chorley, Tooting & Mitcham, Darford, Witton Albion, Dulwich Hamlet, Worcester City, Gateshead, Worthington, Kettering, Wycombe Wanderers, Morecambe, Yeovil, Northwich Victoria, Cwmbran Town.

Rugby Union: Bristol, Leicester, Cambridge, Redruth, Exeter, Workington, Gloucester, Aberavon, Bridgend, Cardiff Arms Park, Ebbw Vale, Llanelli, Neath, Newport, Swansea, Pontypridd. Rugby League: Blackpool Borough, Sheffield Eagles, York, Cricket: Old Trafford, Headingley, Lord's, Trent Bridge, Scarborough, The Oval, Edgbaston.



A Challenger main battle tank of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars demonstrating its car-crushing abilities at the dress rehearsal for tomorrow's Royal Armoured Corps open day at Bovington Camp, Dorset.

Teachers' pay talks restart

By Mark Dowd

Leaders of the six teaching unions and local authority employers were locked deep in discussion last night at talks in Coventry sponsored by the conciliation service, Acas.

Before negotiations got under way, however, teachers' leaders left no doubt about what they thought of the employers' £2.5 billion package agreed on Monday at the Burnham management panel meeting.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the second largest union, said that the offer could be "no more than an opening shot".

"This is a starting point for negotiation," he said. "It can only be seen like that. The proposals do not come measurably near to the basis for an actual settlement."

His sentiments were shared by Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, the largest union. He said that after the long salary campaign and 15 months of industrial action, the pay maximum of £14,000 was "totally inadequate".

A warning against over-optimism came from Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers. "It would be wrong for people to go around with the idea that everything is going to be buttoned up in

At the centre of the talks is the package of pay and conditions agreed by employers on Monday which offers £2.5 billion over five years. The main proposals under discussion include:

● An average pay increase of 6 per cent added to the 5.7 per cent deal agreed in May.

● A unified and more fluid salary grading structure to replace the present four-scale system. New teachers would start on an entry grade for the first three years.

They would then automatically pass on to the "main professional grade" or MPG as it would be called which would consist of a 12-step incremental ladder.

Spread over 10 years, that would enable 140,000 scale-one teachers to earn a maximum of £14,000, more than 40 per cent above that at present.

● An additional responsibility allowance for "principal teachers." The term would apply to an estimated 15 per cent, comprised mainly of senior teachers and department heads. The allowance would be worth up to £1,500, depending on their responsibilities.

Coventry this weekend." He said that the employers must come up with another offer. Speaking for the employers, Mr John Pearson, who is chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities,

● Provision for local authorities to make special payments for teachers of "merit", enabling them to speed up recruitment of staff for shortage subjects such as mathematics, physics and modern languages. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is known to be well disposed to moves to give such teachers higher wage differentials.

The total package is designed to take in not only pay structure but also conditions of service and contracts, negotiating machinery, and teacher appraisal. That means agreement on cover for absent colleagues, non-contract time and the size of classes will be linked to any future pay settlement. Union leaders will not be able to pick and choose.

The Acas plenary session ends later today. The opening overtures are then likely to be followed by further discussions in September.

Mr Baker has given few clues on how much he is prepared to offer to cement a deal. The figure officially still on the table is that of his predecessor, Sir Keith Joseph: £1.25 billion over four years, subject to a satisfactory contract of duties.

He said that a detailed agreement was unlikely at the two-day session. He hoped that sufficient consensus could be reached to enable both sides to present a common front to the Government in September.

University earnings doubled

Universities' direct earnings from industry more than doubled between 1982 and 1985 (Mark Dowd writes).

According to provisional figures published yesterday by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, industrial and commercial research contracts amounted to £47.7 million in 1984-85, compared with £23 million for 1981-82.

The figures, which take no account of inflation, do not include student sponsorship money, nor revenue raised by university companies.

Mr Michael Powell, a senior administrative officer with the committee, said that the development was a sign of the times.

Universities were becoming increasingly dependent on outside income and were doing all they could to promote the exploitation of their inventions by means of patents and licence agreements with companies.

Giving the example of Salford as a university which had made enormous strides towards increasing its findings from sources outside the University Grants Committee, he said it was still essential that the Government continued to provide the capital for the more long-term projects.

Thatcher pledge on parties' security

By Sheila Gann Political Staff

The Prime Minister yesterday promised help to the main political parties with the escalating costs of anti-terrorist security at their annual conferences.

Sophisticated security measures have had to be mounted at the conferences since a bomb explosion devastated the Grand Hotel, Brighton, during the 1984 Conservative Party conference.

But the scheme announced by Mrs Thatcher will give no help to the police authorities who bear the major costs.

The police authority in Lancashire protested that it had cost nearly £1 million to ensure security at last year's Conservative Party conference in Blackpool.

The scheme will cover security costs for the Conservative, Labour, Liberal, Social Democratic, Scottish and Welsh Nationalist conferences.

A political party has to hold at least two seats at Westminster, or one seat plus at least 150,000 votes, to qualify. The same criteria applies for financial assistance to opposition parties.

Conferences in Northern Ireland will not qualify because the arrangements for security are different.

Sir Ian Percival, Conservative MP for Southport and a former solicitor general, had urged Mrs Thatcher to help with the rising costs.

"In the view of the Government, the continuation of party conferences is essential to the public interest and the costs of these exceptional precautions, which will not be necessary in every case, should not be borne entirely by the parties themselves," Mrs Thatcher said.

A Conservative Central Office spokesman said that the security costs to the party amounted to "tens of thousands" but would not be drawn on the exact total in case it aided the terrorists.

Correction

Our reference (July 8) to English Deboduro "Victims" being able to sue in the United States wrongly implied that the drug had been found to cause birth deformities in the United Kingdom, and that the United Kingdom Court decision was that non-resident plaintiffs have a right to sue in the US. The Supreme Court decision was, in fact, that it is for the State Courts to decide the latter issue.

Injunction stays on MI5 secrets

The Guardian and The Observer newspapers failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday to lift injunctions barring them from publishing news disclosures from Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 man.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Nourse, said that freedom to publish the information from a former security service worker could not possibly be justified on the evidence before them.

Sir John added that he regarded it "in the highest degree unlikely" that publication could be justified on any further evidence which might be available at a full trial.

But the court varied the injunctions granted to the Attorney General earlier this month to allow the newspapers to publish disclosures in Parliament and open court.

Mr Wright, who worked for MI5 before retiring and moving to Australia 10 years ago, has written his memoirs. But the Government is seeking to stop publication in an Australia

lian court hearing due to start in November.

The Attorney General sought injunctions against the newspapers after they published articles containing allegations said to be in the memoirs.

Sir John, in dismissing the appeals with costs, said that Mr Justice Millett, who granted the injunctions when he said that Britain's security service must be seen to be above the law, had not been in principle. "Indeed I have no doubt that he was right," Sir John said.

The newspapers were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords and must ask them direct for leave.

Outside court, Mr David Leigh, The Observer's chief reporter, said: "The injunction is worthless because everything in the articles we have already published has now been said on the floor of the House of Commons. There will be further disclosures at the weekend from another member of MI5 and that will be within the law."

Nine years for brutal parent

Two parents who beat, tortured and deprived their daughters "as a way of life" were given jail sentences yesterday which were among the severest punishments ever imposed in child cruelty cases.

Mr Robert Harman, QC, Recorder at the Central Criminal Court, told them: "The pair of you had it in for those girls. They were at your mercy, in your charge and had no possible redress. You abused your role as parents in a way that was sickening."

The unmarried couple, from Croydon, who cannot be identified on the orders of the judge, were convicted at an earlier hearing of causing grievous bodily harm to their daughters, aged eight and 10, cruelty and wilful neglect. The father, aged 29, was jailed for nine years and the mother, aged 28, for five years.

The judge described the couple as "callous and brutal" and said the ordeals the little girls suffered had left them scarred for life.

He said the children had been beaten with belts and pieces of wire flex and burnt with lighted cigarettes.

Alliance document 'bland'

By George Hill

The joint policy document released this week by the Alliance was attacked by Cabinet Ministers yesterday as "a masterpiece of blandness", papering over its divisions. Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, and Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, emphasized the document's reticence on unilateralism and accused the Alliance of fudging its policies.

"The thrust of the document will be drawn on defence is to refer the reader to the report of the joint SDP-Liberal Commission - a report which the leader of the SDP has roundly denounced," Mr Hurd said.

"The new document states over the whole question of our independent deterrent," Mr Younger said. "The Alliance is doing its utmost to jettison principles as possible." Mr Hurd said. "Every campaigning group finds a sympathetic reference in this document - but with no sign that the Alliance has sought to rank its demands against the interests of the country."

Ruling on NUM rise next week

The Employment Appeal Tribunal yesterday reserved judgement on an attempt by British Coal to overturn a ruling that it acted unlawfully by withholding a pay rise from NUM members at a Leicestershire colliery. The tribunal, presided over by Mr Justice Popplewell, will give its judgement next Thursday.

British Coal, formerly the National Coal Board, is appealing against an industrial tribunal ruling in May that it broke the Employment Protection Act, 1978, by refusing NUM miners a £5.50 a week pay rise that was already being paid to members of the moderate Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The tribunal ruled that British Coal had breached the Act's provisions which ban an employer from preventing a worker belonging to the union of his choice. It decided British Coal's underlying aim was to encourage miners to leave the NUM and join the UDM. British Coal has argued that it would have paid the increase to all the members at the pit, Ellistown, near Leicester, but the UDM refused to act on behalf of all miners.

Leyland job losses will be known after holiday

Workers at Leyland Bus Company plants will be given details of redundancy plans after an £11.7 million management buy-out when they return from holidays next month, it was disclosed yesterday.

Redundancies will affect almost all areas of the company, Mr George Newburn, manufacturing operations director, said.

It was announced some time ago that the Eastern Coach Works at Lowestoft, Suffolk, will close with the loss

of about 500 jobs at the end of the year.

Mr Newburn said he did not want to give details of redundancy plans. "This is because half our workforce is on holiday and the other half is due to go on holiday today," he said.

"We will wait until all the employees are back in August to discuss with them exactly how the future affects them. We have not really discussed the proposals with trade unions. But they are aware there is a desperate need to restructure the company if it is to survive."

Dispute over drinks led to priest's death

By Richard Ford

A woman told an inquest in the Irish Republic yesterday how she tried to revive a Roman Catholic priest as he lay dying on his bedroom floor after being hit several times by her husband.

Mrs Teresa Flynn, aged 47, told the inquest at Tullamore, Co Offaly, that she had tried to lift Father Niall Molloy, a family friend for 28 years, thinking he had passed out. But she then realized there was no sign of life. "I tried to revive him. I listened for his heartbeat and heard nothing."

Father Molloy, aged 52, died last July in the bedroom of Mrs Flynn and her husband, Richard, aged 48, a businessman, at Kilkourney House, Clara, Co Offaly. A dispute over late-night drinks in the couple's bedroom resulted in Mr Flynn knocking his wife unconscious and hitting the priest several times in the face. Mr Flynn claimed he had been attacked by his wife and the priest.

Father Molloy, a curate from Castletroove, Co Roscommon, died from swelling to the brain. Last month Mr Flynn was cleared of manslaughter and assault when the trial judge said there was no case to answer.

Before Mrs Flynn entered the witness box yesterday the inquest heard that a parish priest went to the house on the

night of the death to administer the last rites and then told the local police sergeant that it was "a terrible scandal in the parish" and asked if it could be kept quiet.

Mrs Flynn said that before the death she had taken a sleeping tablet and gone to bed, but woke to find Father Molloy sitting at the end of the bed and her husband beside her.

Her husband said that he often invited Father Molloy to join him and his wife in their bedroom to finish their drinks. They had all had quite a lot to drink and had been celebrating the Flynns' daughter's wedding when a "stupid argument" developed among the three of them over who was going to get more drink.

"My wife got out of bed and both Father Molloy and I struck both of them with my fist. I hit my wife in the face; she fell down. I hit Father Molloy two, perhaps three times in the face."

Detective Inspector Thomas Monaghan said he saw Mr Flynn a few hours after the incident and he had said "I am the culprit". He asked whether Mr Flynn had found his wife in a compromising position with the priest and he denied it. The inquest jury is to return a verdict today.

Boycott of the games attacked

By John Goodbody Sports News Correspondent

The president of the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday that the 31 countries who boycotted the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh should be punished.

Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, a Spaniard, who is in Edinburgh, was speaking two days before the Commonwealth Games Federation discusses what action to take.

He distinguished between games such as the 1980 and 1984 Olympics, when the boycotting countries declined to take part months before the event, and the present Commonwealth Games when nations accepted and then changed their minds at the last moment under political pressure.

"For me, the most dangerous situation is when a country accepts an invitation to compete and at the last moment withdraws. In that case the country must be punished," Mr Samaranch said on BBC radio.

He emphasized the importance of sport and the attraction of important games. "For that reason we are manipulated by the politicians. Boycotts achieve only one thing: the athletes from certain countries do not take part."

Reports and results, page 30

Statistics on ethnic origins

Local education authorities are to be asked to collect details about the ethnic origins of school pupils (Mark Dowd writes).

In a parliamentary written reply yesterday, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, said that he had received the report of a working group on the subject.

"The collection of ethnic statistics of school pupils would be of great benefit to schools as a basis for making appropriate provision and for monitoring achievement," he said.

"The collection of these aggregate statistics will not enable any individual to be identified."

Mr Baker said he could not accept the working party's recommendation that the Government provide the necessary extra funding. This would have to come from the local education authorities.

Mr Peter Newsam, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said statistics had consistently pointed to the underperformance of black youngsters in Britain's education system, or the underperformance of the system in relation to racial minorities depending on which way one viewed the problem.

Wapping judgement is expected next week

News International is expected to hear next week if it has been successful in its move to be freed from the print union pickets that have demonstrated outside its Wapping plant for the past six months.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith has been asked in the High Court to grant orders cutting illegal mass picketing at the plant.

The judge, who has had to consider 1,250 pages of evidence from News International and six associated companies, reserved his judgement and is expected to give his decision next week.

The company is seeking injunctions banning Sogat '82 and the National Graphical Association, plus four named officials from maintaining anything but a peaceful picket of six outside the plant and restraining marches, demonstrations or interference with employees and commercial contracts.

It alleges that the presence of large numbers of protesters outside the plant has resulted in threats, intimidation and violence towards employees and disruption to the distribution of their titles, The Times, The Sunday Times, News of the World and The Sun.

The unions have opposed the granting of injunctions which would last until a full trial of the action can be heard. They deny inciting violence but have maintained their support for action.

Yesterday Mr Anthony Grabner, QC, for News International, disputed union claims that witnesses for the company, including Mr Bruce Matthews, the managing director, had "misled" the court.

He denied that the plan to print a new London evening paper at Wapping had been a "sham" to "dupe" the unions while all along it was intended to move the entire News International operation there and rid themselves of the unions.

● An accounts clerk with Associated Newspapers was yesterday cleared by Thames Magistrates' Court of kicking a police horse during the Wapping dispute.

Michael Wood, aged 21, of Hobart Gardens, Thornton Heath, had denied the charge.

Mr Michael Corkery, QC, told the court that the prosecution is offering no evidence against him.

Judge Richard Lowry, who sentenced Noye on Thursday and imposed a £500,000 fine for organizing the laundering of the stolen gold and operating a tax fraud, agreed.

Noye, aged 38, whose £3 million assets have been frozen, and his wife were granted legal aid to fight the new trial.

Noye to face trial after porcelain theft

Kenneth Noye, who was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for masterminding the disposal of the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold bullion robbery haul, is to face another trial at the Central Criminal Court (Michael Horsnell writes).

With his wife Brenda, aged 36, Noye will stand trial in September accused of dishonestly handling £3,000 of Meissen porcelain figures stolen from the Hampshire home of Lord Darnley in August 1981.

But Mrs Noye, mother of two sons aged 13 and 10, was told yesterday that a charge of plotting with her husband to handle the Brinks-Mat gold, for which she was committed last July, is being dropped.

Mr Michael Corkery, QC, told the court that the prosecution is offering no evidence against her.

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Sunday Times publishes a royal edition

Tomorrow's Sunday Times Magazine is a collector's edition: a 64-page special issue devoted to the royal wedding.

To capture the colour and happiness of the day and produce a complete record of the wedding for the following Sunday required a complex operation. What normally takes five weeks had to be completed in two days.

A team of top international photographers was flown to London. Runners sped their film to motor cycles and it was rushed for processing. From the laboratories it was taken to the magazine offices, where thousands of photographs were edited before being sent to Watford, where the magazine is printed.

Philip Norman's report, witty and moving, comes to some surprising conclusions about how the British and the Royal Family conduct themselves on these occasions. Sir Alastair Burnet wrote a profile of Sarah Ferguson and Germaine Greer cast a caustic eye on how the Royal Family is beginning to be seen as a soap opera.

The operation took a great deal of energy and effort. The Sunday Times thinks it was worth it and is sure you will agree.

Shopping by post? Play it safe

Readers who reply to cash with order advertisements in national newspapers or colour supplements are safeguarded by the National Newspapers Mail Order Protection Scheme. This covers all categories of goods and services with the exception of: those advertised under classified headings, perishable foodstuffs, horoscopes, lucky charms, gardening and medical products.

The MOPS protection guarantees that your money will be refunded if a member advertiser stops trading and does not deliver your order, or refund your payment.

Spire appeal at £900,000

The appeal launched by the Prince of Wales to save Salisbury Cathedral's 404ft spire - Britain's tallest - has reached £900,000 in 15 months.

Organizers are confident of reaching £1 million by October, when the appeal will go international in an attempt to raise another £5.5 million by 1995.

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

It appears that Dracula stalking dark streets in search of a building society, and plastic ducks revolving in washing machines do not meet with universal approval.

A boy with the superhuman power to bend a lamp post and a man demolishing his bed with a chainsaw are among other unlikely characters who have alarmed television viewers, according to the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

All of them feature, along with sanitary towels and woodpeckers, in a summary of 129 complaints received by the Independent Broadcasting Authority about advertising on independent television and radio last month.

One viewer was concerned that an advertisement for waterproof plaster, showing a plastic duck in washing machine, might encourage children to put real ducks in them. The authority believed

that likelihood was "remote in the extreme".

Another was convinced that Dracula's nocturnal quest for a branch of his building society would incite perverted men to attack women. The IBA felt that too was unlikely.

The lamp-post trick by a boy fortified by a soft drink was seen by three viewers as an incitement to vandalism. The authority ruled that it was patently a comic cartoon, and that the feat was "incapable of being emulated".

Four viewers condemned as a dangerous practice the use of a chainsaw to examine the interior of a bed, but the IBA saw little prospect of it encouraging other people to do the same.

Others objected to rowdiness and vandalism in a older commercial, in which woodpeckers assumed the role of human beings and vice versa. "We think it is total pandemonium and not intended to be taken quite so seriously," the authority said.

Girl a for h 7 year

Move to of human

Prisoner on parole killed man

Deal for the stud 'never

More authority benefit from library books

Girl awarded damages for hospital blunder 7 years before birth

A hospital blunder over a blood transfusion given to her mother seven years before her birth led to a brain-damaged girl aged four being awarded £334,769 in the High Court in London yesterday.

Sandra Roberts was born with a rare blood disease, haemolytic disease of the newborn, because West Suffolk Hospital at Bury St Edmunds failed to give the necessary pre-natal treatment. Mrs Julie Roberts, her mother, whose blood was incompatible with that of her father.

The child is deaf, hyperactive, autistic and is unable to walk or control her movements. The judge, Mr Justice Aliotti, said that she would one day be able to walk in some way and would probably attain the intelligence of a four-year-old.

He said: "The tragedy of Sandra's birth stems from a transfusion of the wrong blood given to Mrs Roberts after a road traffic accident seven years before Sandra was born."

Mrs Roberts, of Mouse Lane, Rougham, Bury St Edmunds, was rhesus negative and was transfused with rhesus positive blood. Her blood then developed anti-D antibodies. Mr Frederick Roberts, her husband, was rhesus negative.

As a result, there was a serious risk that any child born to them would suffer from the disease, the judge said. But it was largely preventable. The hospital knew of the mother's condition but failed to act.

Mr Douglas Johnson, the obstetrician, and East Anglian Health Authority admitted liability and the judge was asked to assess damages.

The court was told that the child was so severely ill when she was born on November 3, 1981, that she was taken from her mother and kept in special care. As a result she lost the first days with her mother and the bonding between them never developed.

The judge said that Mr and Mrs Roberts were unable to

cope with their daughter, who screamed for hours on end, and after five months she was fostered.

The foster parents, Mr Sydney Woodward, aged 55, and his wife, Maureen, aged 31, of Woodside, Purdis Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, had done a "superb job" and planned to adopt the child in September. When they began looking after her, they had no idea that she had a claim for damages pending, the judge emphasized.

Mrs Roberts will receive £998 from Sandra's award for the nursing care she gave her during the first five months of her life. The award to the child also included £12,358 for Mr and Mrs Woodward. Outside the court, Mrs Woodward, accompanied by her husband, said that looking after the child was "hard work but enjoyable". She said: "I love her, otherwise I wouldn't do it. She's a really super kid. I have no regrets about having her."



Kasparov (left) and Karpov (above) parrying questions in London yesterday (Photographs: Chris Harris).

First move in war of chess giants

By Tim Jones

There were no boxing gloves in sight but that could not disguise the fact that it was war. In high style, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, and Anatoly Karpov, his intractable opponent, arrived to fight again for the chess championship of the world.

As they walked into the boardroom of the Park Lane Hotel in London, they looked more like disco dancers than supreme exponents of an art which demonstrates the triumph of the human mind over any computer yet devised.

Kasparov, aged 23, who does not dispute his playboy image, was trendy as ever in a light powder-blue suit.

In the web of deep psychology that permeates chess, Karpov, aged 35, had decided to go for an early points victory and paraded in a suit of almost ice-cream white, offset by a red open-neck shirt.

But it will be the hard grind over the 64 squares which will determine who will wear the crown. Mecca, the bookmakers, has announced odds of 8-13 for a Kasparov victory and 6-4 for Karpov.

Both men, in keeping with tradition, gave separate press conferences and paraded their about personal antagonisms. If the questions were too positive, they misunderstood and reverted to speaking

in Russian although their command of English is good. Karpov claims antagonism at that level was natural and if it ever became personal it was "only of a temporary nature".

Kasparov, who wrestled the crown from Karpov in November last year, said: "We have different attitudes to life. You can see for yourself that our appearance is different."

That hatred arises from their first encounter in Moscow when, after five months, with Kasparov in the lead but apparently willing under the physical strain, Mr Florenca Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation, annulled the match in an atmosphere of mistrust.

When the match restarted in September, Kasparov produced brilliant chess to win the crown of which he considered he had been cheated.

The 24-match series, half of which will be played in London before moving to Leningrad, is a triumph for the British Chess Federation and for the chief organizer, Mr Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*.

Mr Keene believes that the match will make chess in Britain, in television terms, as popular as snooker.

Both contestants have agreed to donate the record £510,000 to the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Stalker's solicitor alleges phone tap

The solicitor representing Mr John Stalker, the suspended police chief, yesterday claimed that his office telephone lines were being tapped. The claim was denied by Mr James Anderson, chief constable of Greater Manchester and Mr Stalker's superior.

Mr Stalker, the deputy chief constable, has been at the centre of a controversy since being suspended from his investigation into claims that the Royal Ulster Constabulary had a "shoot-to-kill" policy when dealing with terrorists.

Mr Stalker, who was said to have been critical of the RUC in his initial report on the investigation, was suspended while allegations involving his friendship with Mr Kevin Taylor, a Manchester businessman, were investigated.

Firemen lose long hair case

Three firemen who claimed sexual discrimination after being ordered to have haircuts have had the cases dismissed by an industrial tribunal. Mr David Williams, Mr Alan Warwick and Mr Ron Bonner were furious when the station officer at Tottenham gave the "short back and sides" order in January.

The trio told the tribunal earlier this month that there were two female fire fighters at the station — one had short hair, and the other had long hair in a pony tail style. Mr Williams, who has curly and bushy hair, said if he had it cut he might lose favour with his girlfriends.

Two accused over death

Two men were remanded in custody for a week by Wigan magistrates yesterday in connection with the death of a missing mother of four whose body was found in a shallow grave near the M6 in Lancashire.

Mr William Bolton, aged 41, of Eleanor Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester, is accused of murdering his estranged wife, Ellen, aged 34, on or about June 6. Mr John Roden, aged 40, of Matheson Drive, Wigan, is charged with assisting in the disposal of the body.

Drugs gang leader jailed

The ringleader of an international drug-smuggling gang shouted: "I'll get you," to detectives yesterday when he was jailed for 10 years by the Central Criminal Court.

Ulfes Marazzi, aged 43, of Hawtry Road, Swiss Cottage, who runs an antiques business in Camden Passage, Islington, north London, was convicted of conspiring to supply cannabis. Judge Michael Argyll, QC, recommended that Marazzi should be deported to Italy at the end of his sentence.

£22,852 for crash injuries

Mr Norman Mills, a former restaurant manager, was awarded £22,852 damages in the High Court yesterday for road crash injuries which left him with double vision and a loss of sex drive.

Mr Mills was awarded his damages, with costs, against Mr Christopher Thomas, the rider of a motor cycle which was in collision with his car.

Labour gain

Labour took a seat from the Alliance when it won a by-election in the Dockyard ward of Southwark council, London, on Thursday. Mr Pat Ivan, an electrician, aged 60, regained the seat he lost by 17 votes to the Alliance in the May council election.

Chief to retire

Mr Maurice Buck, aged 57, chief constable of Northamptonshire, is to retire in November. Mr Buck played an important part in bringing computers into British policing, and in 1974 led the hunt for the Birmingham public house bombers.

Move to curb sale of human kidneys

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Transplant surgeons are being given strict guidelines on the use of kidneys from living donors in a move to curb traffic in the sale of human organs for operations.

The Government is being urged to set up a compulsory register of all imports and exports of transplantable organs and tissues into and out of Britain, and to keep a record of all British transplant operations.

The guidelines have been drawn up by the British Transplantation Society, representing the surgeons, because of its growing concern about the possible exploitation of kidney donors.

The society is also calling for the register to be set up. Most kidney transplants in Britain involve the use of organs from the dead, with the consent of relatives. Living donors are accepted rarely,

£20 spent weekly on family car

The average British family spends about £20 a week on motoring, more than four times as much as on all other forms of transport combined (Michael Bailey writes).

Spending on cars reached £19.65 a week two years ago, according to latest figures from the British Road Federation, and continues to rise. Nearly £11 went on petrol, maintenance, and insurance, and more than £8 on buying cars, the federation found.

By comparison, under £2 a week went on air fares, taxis, and ferries, just over £1 on bus fares, and 87p on train fares.

Transport uses about a fifth of the nation's energy, the statistics show.

About 60 per cent of households now own one car, and 16 per cent more than one. Official forecasts suggest a rise of 18½ to 45 per cent in car traffic by the year 2,000.

Check on French strangling link

By David Sapsted

Scotland Yard detectives hunting the Stockwell stranger yesterday asked French police for a report on the wave of killings in Paris that has claimed the lives of 32 elderly women during the past two years. Officers seeking the man responsible for strangling and often sexually assaulting eight London pensioners in four months said the request for information from France was purely routine.

"We know these killings in Paris have been occurring and we have asked for a report to see whether there are similarities," a police spokesman said.

One man, possibly a drug addict, is believed responsible for about a third of the French deaths, all involving women aged over 65 living alone.

New eggs 'are bigger and better'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A new range of poultry feeds, which are said to produce bigger, stronger and healthier eggs, was launched yesterday by BOCM Silcock, the agricultural feed division of Unilever.

The feeds contain only natural ingredients with extra vitamins, but have no artificial colourings or antibiotics.

Birds that are fed on them produce larger eggs with stronger shells, better colour and texture and improved flavour, the company said.

The Government announced yesterday that Dairy Crest Foods, the manufacturing and marketing branch of the Milk Marketing Board, was to become a separate, legally distinct body with its own commercial objectives and a majority of independent directors.

But the Ministry of Agriculture denied a report in the magazine, *Farming News*, that Dairy Crest would be floated as a public limited company within the next two years.

It also said it was "puzzled" by a statement by the Dairy Trade Federation, welcoming the announcement as "a first stage towards total separation of Dairy Crest by means of a Stock Exchange flotation".

It would remain a wholly-owned subsidiary of the board, the ministry said.

The federation has long resented the close links between the board and Dairy Crest, claiming that they discriminate against the interests of its members.

Aids risk in swimming pools 'very unlikely'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Aids (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) could be spread in swimming pools in exceptional cases, although the risk is "exceedingly unlikely", a leading scientist has said.

Swimmers with open cuts and abrasions should avoid using swimming pools or hydrotherapy pools because it was "conceivable" that the virus might enter through a break in the skin, Professor Arie Zuckerman, professor of microbiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor

Police provide driving lessons to help jobless

A chief constable yesterday unveiled a plan to cut unemployment among young people by teaching them to drive.

Mr Tony Mullett, head of West Mercia police, also issued a challenge to potential employers.

Nine long-term unemployed people aged between 18 and 24 will start the five-week standard police driving course at Telford, Shropshire, where unemployment among men in their age group is above 30 per cent.

If the course proves successful, it will be extended for a year in Telford, then spread through the whole of the area covered by West Mercia police.

Mr Mullett said that the cost of the equivalent number of lessons at a driving school would be £500. The force will also pay for the young people to take their driving tests.

The authority does not expect protests from driving schools, because those selected for the course would not be able to afford to go to a commercial school.

Mr Mullett said he was increasingly concerned at the number of young people arrested for disorderly behaviour.

"One factor that emerges is that many of them are unemployed. It is important that we do everything to forge closer links."

"I challenge local employers to take advantage of the skills acquired by these young people."

Prisoner on parole killed man

A judge yesterday called on the Home Secretary to investigate the freeing of a prisoner who killed within a week.

Judge Hazan, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court that the case of William Anderson, aged 26, would justifiably cause disgust. He had a string of convictions and a personality disorder. But after serving half of a five-year sentence for stabbing and robbing a man, he was given weekend parole from Wandsworth jail.

He was jailed for life for murdering and robbing Mr Malik Khattak, aged 39, of Hampstead Garden Suburb. He was also jailed for nine years for attacking and robbing a tourist.

Deal for thoroughbred stud 'never happened'

Allan Brown, a bloodstock agent, was "ever the optimist" when he tried to get back his investment in a losing thoroughbred stud called Full of Hope.

But a High Court judge said yesterday that an alleged agreement with other shareholders to buy out his 14 shares for £56,000 "never happened".

Deputy judge Peter Crawford, QC, rejected his claim for damages against John and Ron Poppley, of Hilltop Stud, Wood Hill, Meopham, Kent, who denied that they entered into the agreement when Full of Hope became a financial liability.

The judge said he agreed with the brothers that Mr Brown "found it difficult to distinguish between that which was and that which ought to be. He has deluded himself as to what happened".

He had been told that Mr Brown, of Collier Street, Malden, Kent, had an overdraft of more than £56,000 at the time of the alleged agreement in October 1983, and wished to sell his shares to clear it.

But the judge rejected that this had prompted Mr Brown to "bend the truth" to suit his case.

He said: "He was ever the optimist. What he said came from the heart and not from the head."

Duchy houses go to trust

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

The Duchy of Cornwall, which manages land and property for the Prince of Wales, has approved plans to sell Newquay House, a block of 76 flats and maisonettes in Kensington, south London, to a housing trust.

The sale would enable a tenants' co-operative to take over responsibility for its improvement and management.

The recommendation is contained in a feasibility study commissioned by the duchy last February and produced by the community architects, Hunt Thompson Associates, working with the tenants and Mr David Costie, housing development controller of the Halifax Building Society.

The report, co-ordinated by the Royal Institute of British Architects, was submitted to

City firm's move saves Everest expedition

By Ronald Faux

The City has stepped in to save a British expedition which aims to climb Everest by its most difficult route. A cheque for £60,000 has been handed by a firm of stockbrokers to the organizers of the British attempt on the unclimbed north-east ridge.

Mr Robert Harris and Mr Roy Curtis, senior partners at Seligman, Harris and Co, said that the financial help was being given on behalf of the Stock Exchange and the City.

The firm said yesterday: "The City seems to be making the headlines at the moment and the fashionable view is

that there is little thought beyond making glamorous sales. We don't too much care for that view."

The expedition leader, Brummie Stokes, a former soldier in the Special Air Service Regiment founded by Colonel Stirling, shouldered the expedition's new name, The Seligman Harris British Mount Chomolungma North-East Ridge '86 Expedition, and set off for China yesterday, ahead of the 18-strong team.

The expedition has raised £315,000 in sponsorship and donations. Progress reports will appear in *The Times*.

Mr Harris said: "The expedition is a very significant difference. I'm learning all the time." Mr Ron Daw, another tenant, said: "We listened to the Prince's speeches about helping people to help themselves. Now we know it can be done."

One of the vacant flats, under-taken a social survey and consulted tenants on their wishes. Initial suspicion about the architects' role was soon overcome.

Coach parties of tenants visited several other successful community architecture projects, including Lea View House, Hackney, east London, the work of Co-operative Development Services in Liverpool, and the Black Road Improvement Schemes in Macclesfield.

Mr Humphreys said: "I didn't know an architect from a community architect before this, and there is a very significant difference. I'm learning all the time."

Mr Ron Daw, another tenant, said: "We listened to the Prince's speeches about helping people to help themselves. Now we know it can be done."

More authors benefit from library books

More authors received payments for library loans of their books last year, the annual report of the Public Lending Right registrar said yesterday.

The number of authors and illustrators, translators and others benefiting from the scheme rose to 9,626 from 7,622 last year.

The sum paid out rose from £1.6 million to £2.4 million. But half of those registered under the scheme received less than £100, and only one in 10 received £500 or more.

For the first time payments have been extended to writers and illustrators of children's books of fewer than 32 pages, and to authors living in West Germany.

Report by the Minister for the Arts on the Public Lending Right Scheme 1985-86 (HC 523, Stationery Office: £1.90).

Titanic expedition

Expert not convinced of hull damage

By Trudi McIntosh

The wreck of the Titanic could still be raised, Mr John Pierce, a British salvage expert, claimed yesterday.

Dr Robert Ballard, leader of the American Woods Hole Oceanographic expedition which completed filming the Titanic on Thursday, had not produced "conclusive" evidence that the ship's hull is broken into two sections, he said.

Mr Pierce of Chirk, North Wales still believes the wreck is resting intact 13,000 feet below the surface of the North Atlantic, 450 miles south-east of Newfoundland.

He hopes an Anglo/French expedition can be organized next year to salvage the wreck.

"I am not satisfied with Dr

Ballard's views that the wreck is not salvageable. Some of the film could be misleading and does not prove conclusively that the hull is broken into two or several sections," Mr Pierce said.

He said that if the expedition's midgeat submersible, Alvin, had taken a side scan sonar record of the wreck, Dr Ballard should release the results.

"So far, we have only seen different shots of the Titanic, but not one continuous view. A lot of questions remain unanswered," Mr Pierce said.

The raising of the 73-year-old wreck has become a kind of Holy Grail to Mr Pierce, aged 44, whose inflatable canvas bags successfully refloated Rainbow Warrior, the

Greenpeace ship, in Auckland harbour last year.

Mr Pierce believes that a similar system on a much larger scale could raise the Titanic.

However, Dr Ballard, leader of the American-French oceanographic survey team that discovered the wreck last September, has said that he believes any salvage attempt would destroy the wreck.

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts said Dr Ballard had reported exactly what he had observed during the expedition.

There have been continuous pictures of the bow section. When Dr Ballard returns to Massachusetts on Monday, we will start examining all the photographs. But the view

here is that the ocean has taken its toll on the wreck."

Eleven dives were made during the 12-day expedition and "more excellent photographs" of the Titanic were taken on the last day of filming.

But Mr Pierce, a Welsh aircraft engineer, who recovered nautical artefacts three years ago from the Lusitania, which lies 13 miles off the Irish coast in 340 feet of water, remains unconvinced.

He believes that if about £7 million was raised, a salvage operation could start next year.

He said a submersible developed at Fremer, the French government-run Institute of Research and Exploitation of the Sea, could reach depths of more than 20,000 feet.

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Just set it and forget it - it even turns itself off. MAXIMIZE ITS BENEFIT to your lawn - ORDER NOW for those HOT, SUMMER WEEKS ahead.

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Spraymobile gives an even, rectangular spray pattern up to 100 x 50 ft wide as it "walks" unattended in 2 to 3 hours across your lawn (dependent upon water pressure and spray settings). It is attached by a nylon cord to a central actuator which is inserted into the far end of the lawn. As the spray arm rotates the cord winds slowly pulling it across the lawn. At the end of its "walk" it turns itself off automatically. You can turn off the tap later at your convenience, enabling you to water when you want to - without being there.

Remember - watering at night achieves maximum soil moisture penetration. Tests by a leading horticultural authority achieved really excellent results, with 3 times the coverage of conventional sprinklers in an ideal situation depth of approx. 5". Also gives 1300 sq ft coverage when used stationary.

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Chief to retire

Mr Maurice Buck, aged 57, chief constable of Northamptonshire, is to retire in November. Mr Buck played an important part in bringing computers into British policing, and in 1974 led the hunt for the Birmingham public house bombers.

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Massacre of 14 Hindu bus passengers in Punjab shocks Delhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Just as the Punjab authorities were beginning to think that they had the Sikh extremists on the run, four of them committed the most bloody massacre to date in the strife-torn state.

As first light struck the flooded paddy fields of the rich agricultural district of Faridkot yesterday, three men armed with Sten guns stopped the first bus of the day heading from the little town of Muktsar to the capital, Chandigarh.

They ordered the women and children off the bus, segregated the men into Hindus and Sikhs, and one by one shot the Hindus. The attackers were joined by a fourth man, and between them they killed 14 people and gravely wounded another seven. Then they commandeered a tractor and careered away on it, abandoning it close to Ferozepur district and the border with Pakistan.

When news of the incident percolated back to Muktsar, which is heavily populated, as most Punjab towns are, by Hindus, a dangerous situation arose between the two communities. A curfew was

clamped on the town.

The incident has caused widespread shock and condemnation in the state, and in Delhi. The state Cabinet immediately went into session to discuss the killings, and afterwards the Chief Minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, declared that they were "an outrage against humanity and all civilized norms".

His Government would take "drastic measures to track down the culprits of this ghastly crime and mete out stern punishment to them".

Mr Julio Ribeiro, the Punjab police chief, had recently praised his own success in forcing the extremists on to the defensive. He declared that a police operation last weekend in a low-lying riverine area of the state had captured vital hideouts and logistical stores, and that the gang leaders had been forced to flee.

In a conversation with me earlier this week, Mr Surjit Singh indicated that in his view most of the extremists had joined the mainstream of political life in the state after the Punjab accord was signed last year. "Still, a large number

remain who try to create trouble," he said. "Many of these may come from the other side of the border, from Pakistan."

He flew to Muktsar to visit the site of the shootings and was joined by the state Governor, Mr S.S. Ray. The Home Minister in Delhi, Mr Buta Singh, also a Sikh, flew to Punjab in the wake of the attack.

An all-party meeting in Chandigarh yesterday called for a general strike today to protest at the killings. The meeting included representatives of both the Congress (I) Party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, and of the Akali Dal, the Sikh religious party. The meeting had the support of trade union groups, which will ensure the success of the strike.

In May 11 people were shot dead by Sikh extremists in a busy bazaar in Amritsar. Yesterday's attack is reminiscent of the killing of six Hindu bus passengers in 1983, which was the immediate stimulus for the suspension of democratic government in the state and the imposition of direct rule from Delhi.

Attack on Bayonne law court

From Diana Geddes

A vast police search was launched yesterday among suspected Basque separatists living in the Bayonne area of south-west France, after a policeman was injured in a terrorist attack on the main law court in the town.

Two men, one speaking in French and the other in Basque, later rang local radio stations on both sides of the border with Spain, to claim responsibility for the attack in the name of Iparrerriak, the French Basque separatist organization. The claims have not yet been authenticated.

The attack is believed to have been carried out in protest against the expulsion to Spain earlier this week of two Basque refugees living in France.

The move marked a significant hardening of the new right-wing French Government's attitude towards Spanish Basque militants living in exile on French soil. Neither man was being sought by the police in France or Spain.

The main French judges' union, the Syndicat de la Magistrature, has severely condemned what it regards as an "extrajudicial" procedure and an abuse of the procedure of "emergency expulsion".

The policeman, who was on duty outside the court in Bayonne, was injured in the arm and eye when terrorists in a passing car fired a half of bullets in his direction as he went to investigate a violent explosion at the back of the court just before 5 am yesterday.

Two more bombs which had failed to explode were later found in the court's park and another near a bank.

Dig uncovers 5,000-year-old state New light on China's past

From A Correspondent, Peking

Foreign archaeologists working in China's north-east province of Liaoning say they have unearthed the remains of a Chinese state 5,000 years older than China's supposed first dynasty, the New China News Agency reported yesterday.

During the past three years scientists and other experts have excavated six groups of stone tombs and a temple to a goddess at a remote village in the western part of the province.

A large sacrificial altar 31 miles east of the temple, and supposed by Chinese experts to belong to the same period, was uncovered during a torrential rain storm in 1979.

The relics, all of which are reckoned to be 5,000 years old, are said to belong to the

"Hongshan" culture of the late Neolithic period.

Chinese archaeologists at the site said this week that, on the basis of these new finds, China's first state must have emerged more than 1,000 years earlier than Xia, hitherto supposed to be China's first dynasty. Xia flourished between the 21st and 16th centuries BC.

"Such a big centre of construction could hardly be the centre of a local tribe," Su Bingqi, vice-president of the Archaeological Society of China, said.

"They must be traces of social and political activities of an early state," he added. The 218-yard-wide temple is a square larger than a football field, under which archaeologists guess lies an ancient

castle. Relics unearthed so far include broken statues of naked females, pieces of jade and implements that may have been used in sacrifices.

Archaeologists are particularly excited about two small female figurines found near the temple. These, together with an 8.8-inch-tall head of a goddess, painted in colours and with eyes of blue jade, may indicate that China's painted pottery had developed to a high standard in the Neolithic age.

The most attractive piece found so far is a vividly carved jade dragon. Its discovery is expected to give further impetus to China's renewed interest in archaeology, which died out during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

Argentina showdown with striking pilots

From A Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentina's national airline, Aerolineas Argentinas, has decided to recruit new pilots, which will infuriate its 561 striking pilots.

The dispute between the state company and the pilots' union, the Argentine Association of Airline Pilots (Apla), which started at the beginning of July "is over and the only thing left is to begin restructuring the company with new pilots," the airline's president, Señor Horacio Domingorena, said last week, only hours before the Government revoked Apla's legal status.

The strike is being widely regarded as a test of strength for the Government's hopes of recasting labour relations and tackling inefficiency in public-owned companies.

On the surface, the cause of the strike was the pilots' unwillingness to accept a rise negotiated for all airline workers on June 19, after a six-day strike by all six airline unions. The pilots argue that their seniority and responsibilities merit special treatment.

But labour analysts argue that what is really at stake is the airline's ability to resist the union's pressure and then, taking advantage of the strike, streamline its most expensive category of employees. According to many people inside the airline, full service can be maintained with only 400 pilots.

Yesterday Mr Hawke asked Mr Brian Mulroney and Señor Raúl Alfonsín, the Canadian and Argentine leaders, to make representations to Washington.

Australia acts on US wheat row

From Stephen Taylor

Sydney The Hawke Government yesterday sought to recruit the support of Canada and Argentina in a dispute with the United States over sales of subsidized wheat.

The Australian Government had earlier urged President Reagan to veto Senate proposals to offload surplus wheat on Australian markets at an estimated cost to Canberra of up to \$Aust1 billion.

On Wednesday night Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, telephoned Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, to warn him that if the US extended wheat subsidies to the Soviet Union and China it would have a devastating effect on Australian producers and could damage bilateral relations.

Yesterday Mr Hawke asked Mr Brian Mulroney and Señor Raúl Alfonsín, the Canadian and Argentine leaders, to make representations to Washington.

Three Spanish Civil Guards have each been sentenced to six months imprisonment in Bilbao for torturing a detainee while seeking to obtain a confession of robbery in November 1982.

General José Sáenz de Santamaría, head of the paramilitary Civil Guard, has meanwhile been denounced for ordering other members of the force facing accusations of torture to attend a trial in

Thai poll beset by corruption charges

Bangkok (Reuters) — Candidates in Thailand's general election, have accused opponents of bribery, using "ghost voters" and hiring gunmen to kill rivals in the final run-up to tomorrow's voting.

According to the Bangkok Post, ambitious politicians in northern Thailand have paid from 150,000 to 200,000 baht (£3,900 to £5,200) to hire killers to assassinate their rivals.

Police would neither confirm nor deny the report, the latest in a mounting stream about violence, but said the campaigning was less bloody than in the past.

They added, however, that they were investigating the murder of a candidate and several canvassers during the campaign, which has been high in personal rivalry and low in policy debate.

One candidate escaped unhurt last Saturday when his campaign van was riddled with M16 automatic rifle fire in Lamphun in northern Thailand.

In a bid to check violence, police have opened an election "peace-keeping centre" in Bangkok, and rounded up 5,000 people in a pre-poll crackdown on crime.

More than 120,000 men, including bomb disposal experts, border units, troops and police, will ensure security tomorrow, the police said.

According to a number of newspapers, banks in north-east Thailand were short of the 10 and 20 baht notes campaigners like to hand out to voters.

In Khon Kaen, in the north-east, a candidate promised 20,000 baht for information leading to the arrest of his rival, who was in hiding from an arrest warrant dating back to the 1979 election.

District registrars charge that some parties obtained fake identification cards to register "ghost voters".

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, is tipped to lead a new government after the election, even though he is not a candidate.

The Thai system permits non-elected prime ministers and General Prem, the country's longest serving premier, has powerful backers despite his slipping popularity, analysts said.

The Army, the main power base in a country that has seen 15 coups or attempted coups since 1932, has signalled its support for the 65-year-old former general, in a radio broadcast criticising his opponents. General Prem, who retired recently from the Army, also enjoys solid backing from the influential monarchy.

Only about half of the country's 26 million eligible voters are expected to turn out, and interest is mainly focused on the showings of the various parties that will form the inevitable coalition.

Sixteen mostly moderate parties have fielded 3,811 candidates. The fact that General Prem is not one of them has been one of the main issues in an otherwise dull campaign.

Ambulance scandal in Rome

From Peter Nichols

Rome The dangers of falling ill in Rome in high summer have been underlined by the arrests of a doctor and five male Red Cross nurses, coupled with night visits by Carabinieri patrols to check on allegations of absenteeism by doctors and nurses.

The six arrests on Wednesday were ordered at the end of an inquiry into the Red Cross ambulance service opened a year ago. Those arrested were said to have demanded money before they would agree to take seriously ill people to hospital for emergency treatment.

They were also said to have accepted about £100 from undertakers, whom they tipped off about impending deaths, thereby giving them the chance to make offers to the bereaved families.

Another two people said to be involved in the first aid racket are still being sought. The clampdown arose after a woman, seven months pregnant and suffering from asthma, died without proper medical attention on the way to hospital last month.

This week some 140 Carabinieri have swooped on three of Rome's leading hospitals to investigate allegations of unjustified absences by doctors and nursing staff.

The action, ordered by Signor Giorgio Santacroce, a Rome public prosecutor, is part of an inquiry into hospital absenteeism which he has been conducting for some three years.

The immediate results, he says, are not dramatic: a maximum of six people can be said to have been absent without justification in the three hospitals inspected.

But he says there remains the problem of a lack of personnel during the summer months.

The problem is exacerbated by extra overcrowding in Rome's hospitals caused by elderly people being sent for treatment when their families want to go away on holiday. The number of patients grows, while the chronic problem of too few staff with too little training is made worse by holidays.

Geneva talks seek common ground

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

American and Soviet experts, holding markedly different briefs, opened discussions in Geneva yesterday on nuclear testing, another step towards a second summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev.

The US delegation is headed by Mr Robert Barker, deputy assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Soviet team by Mr Andrikan Petrosov, chairman of the Atomic Energy Committee.

The Russians want to talk about a treaty banning all nuclear tests, particularly as they have been observing a self-imposed moratorium on them since August 6 last year.

The Americans are no less eager to concentrate on verifying observance of the 1974 Threshold Treaty, which prohibits underground tests with yields exceeding 150,000 kilotons, and the 1976 Peaceful

Nuclear Explosions Treaty, which specifies the same maximum yield.

The US position remains that tests are essential for ensuring that the deterrent weapon stockpiles remain in efficient condition. That leaves the question of the equivalent Soviet stockpiles after the 12 months of the moratorium.

If there is no prospect of an early breakthrough towards a comprehensive ban, common ground may be found in the idea of limiting reductions in medium-range and intermediate-range missiles to reductions in numbers, and possibly yields, of underground tests.

● MOSCOW: Moscow's chief negotiator at the US-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva, Mr Viktor Karpov, met Chinese officials in Peking to discuss space weapons and other disarmament issues. Tass said yesterday.

Nevada nuclear test

Washington — The US has conducted its eighth underground nuclear weapons test this year, the Energy Department said (Mohsin Ali writes).

The explosion beneath the Nevada desert on Thursday was of less power than 20,000 tons of TNT.

It was the first test since Washington and Moscow announced on July 16 that their experts would meet in Geneva to discuss testing.

Three powers agree to air crisis hotline

Tokyo — America, Russia and Japan have agreed to set up a hotline to prevent the kind of misunderstanding which claimed 269 lives when Soviet jets shot down a South Korean jumbo jet in 1983 (A Correspondent writes).

A Japanese Transport Ministry official said the line would open on August 15 to allow communication between the three sides should aircraft inadvertently stray into the airspace of the other side.

The South Korean jet was shot down after it flew off course over sensitive military installations on the Soviet island of Sakhalin. The incident provoked an international outcry.

The line will link the cities of Khabarovsk, Tokyo and Anchorage.

Last of 'family spy ring' convicted

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Jerry Whitworth, the last member of what has become known in the US as "the John Walker family spy ring" faces life in prison after being convicted in San Francisco of selling secrets to the Russians.

Whitworth, aged 46, sat impassively as a Federal Court jury, after deliberating for 10 days, returned guilty verdicts on seven espionage counts.

The accused, who retired from the US Navy in 1983 after 18 years as a radio technician, was convicted of selling secrets on satellite communications systems, decoding equipment and code keys between 1974 and 1983 for a total of \$332,000 (£225,000). Each of the spy convictions carries a life sentence.

Some of the key testimonies against Whitworth came during the three-month trial from his old friend, John Walker.

Walker, the confessed spy-master of a ring that included his son Michael, aged 25, and his brother Arthur, aged 51, who are both serving prison sentences for espionage, said he recruited Whitworth in 1975, to pass him labelled coding secrets and intelligence data.

Intelligence authorities have described the Walker operation as the most damaging spy ring since at least the 1950s.

The bearded, bespectacled Whitworth did not take the witness stand in his own defence.

The crux of the case seemed to hinge on whether the Navy cryptographic secrets were going to the Russians or to the Israelis, as Whitworth's lawyers said their client believed.

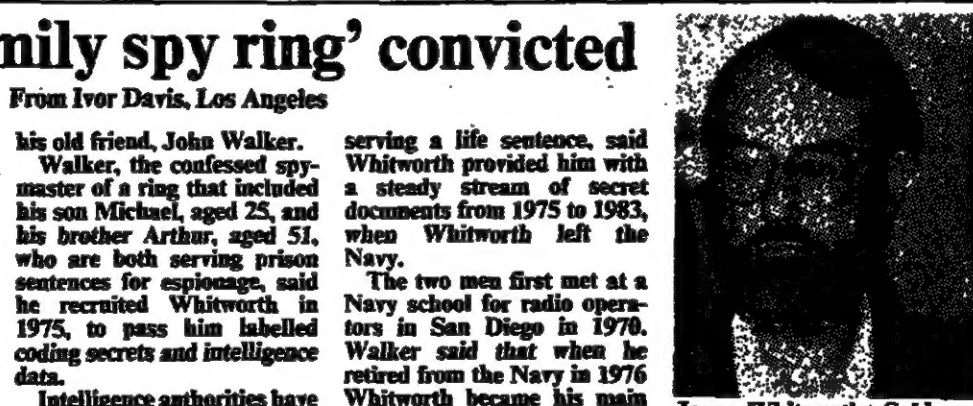
Walker, a key witness for the prosecution who is himself serving a life sentence, said Whitworth provided him with a steady stream of secret documents from 1975 to 1983, when Whitworth left the Navy.

The two men first met at a Navy school for radio operators in San Diego in 1970. Walker said that when he retired from the Navy in 1976 Whitworth became his main supplier of secret information.

The defence did not contest that Walker was selling secrets. But his lawyer, James Larson, said he was led to believe they were going to Israel and would never have passed secrets if he thought they were destined for Russia or would have lost the US.

Walker testified that he never told Whitworth he was dealing with the Russians, but lied and said the secrets were going to Allied nations or a private intelligence agency.

However, the prosecutor, Ms Leida Schoggen, contended that even without Walker's testimony there was a strong case that Whitworth knew who his customers were. She pointed to testimony by a series of Navy and intelligence officials who said Whitworth was drilled repeatedly on the need to keep the code from falling into Soviet hands.



Jerry Whitworth: Sold secrets to Russians.

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PARLIAMENT JULY 25 1986

Westland affair

Wapping dispute

Birmingham bombing

No 10 accused of conspiracy

WESTLAND

Political integrity might be more important than political unity, Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) asserted in the Commons when he launched an attack on the Prime Minister and other central figures in the Westland controversy.

He referred to Mrs Thatcher's talk about the virtues of unity to the backbench 1922 Committee last night and declared: But this debate is on the need for the virtue of integrity in public life.

In an adjournment debate before the House rose for the summer recess, Mr Dalyell claimed that the letter written by the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, which is at the heart of the controversy, was, always intended to be leaked to do down the internal nuisance that Mr Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, had become.

Mr Dalyell accused Mrs Thatcher, Mr Leon Brittan, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Bernard Ingham, press secretary at No 10 Downing Street, claiming: These three cooked up the scheme of getting one of the law officers to send a letter which they intended to leak wholly or in part.

Leaking it, selectively or in full, was the raison d'être of the letter. The specific charge against the Prime Minister was that the dirty work, the decision to leak, took place before it was suggested to the Solicitor General that he should write a letter.

In all innocence Sir Patrick Mayhew wrote the letter. The only way the Downing Street only way the Downing Street

They were quick enough (he added) to bring in the police over Ponting and Tisdall. Was this to shield someone?

Why could not the report by Sir Robert Armstrong, Head of the Home Civil Service, be made public? No question of national security was involved. Mr Richard Lacey, Minister with responsibility for the Civil Service, said Mr Dalyell sometimes became so obsessed with an issue that he lost his balance and objectivity. One of his obsessions was that there was a continual conspiracy in government against the nation. He lived in a world of illusions and this often diminished the credibility of his case.

The Select Committee on Civil Service machine would allow a law officer's letter anywhere near the press office would be because they knew they had to act under Prime

Ministerial nod or wink or instruction. The affair, Mr Dalyell said, showed that Mrs Thatcher was unsuitable to lead one of the great parties of the country and to be the occupant of No 10 Downing Street.

If Mrs Thatcher accepted ministerial responsibility, her office and Mr Ingham, in particular, were guilty of unacceptable conduct and should be disciplined.

Mr Dalyell asked why, after the internal inquiry into the leak, were the police not called in as in the case of Clive Ponting.

They were quick enough (he added) to bring in the police over Ponting and Tisdall. Was this to shield someone?

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Defence had clearly said that it accepted Mrs Thatcher's statement that she had no idea of what was taking place on the day the letter was leaked.

Referring to criticisms about civil servants not being allowed to give evidence to the select committee, Mr Lacey said there was a tendency more and more to summon officials to committees. The House would need to reflect on this important issue, particularly the tendency to examine the conduct of individual officials.

I hope the select committees (he said) will return to the principles hitherto accepted as a basis on which officials give evidence to these committees.

Royal Assent

The following Acts received Royal Assent: Finance; Appropriation; Crown Agents (Amendment); Gas; Insolvency; Company; Directors (Disqualification); Legal Aid (Scotland); Wages; Agricultural; Social Security; British Council and Health Institute Superannuation; Dockyards Services; Building Societies; Ipswich Port Authority; Alcoholic; Anonymous; Dispositions; Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry; Bromborough Dock.

Minister rejects VAT proposal

BUILDING

The Government utterly rejected as flimsy, ill-conceived and narrow-based the contention by the EEC Commission that the UK was wrong to zero rate for VAT new building and other items, Sir George Young, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said in the Commons.

Mr John Heddle (Mid-Staffordshire, C) had referred to the instigation of proceedings against the UK in the European Court of Justice for the removal of this zero-rating. He said if the decision of the European Court went against the Government, it would fundamentally challenge the housing policies of the Government over new building, particularly the switch of the private sector.

Sir George Young said the Government would fight the Commission, whose case was legally bizarre, all along the line on this issue. Harmonization was being pursued for its own sake and the imposition of VAT on construction and particularly new housebuilding would be a deterrent to development.

Labour MP demands inquiry into police

WAPPING DISPUTE

A call for a public inquiry into the police handling of what he described as a trade union May Day parade at the home of News International in London, was demanded by Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North-East, Lab) in the Commons.

He made the demand during a short adjournment debate when he accused the Metropolitan Police of brutality against men, women and children.

He also wanted accountability of the Metropolitan Police through a democratically elected police authority within a framework set up by Parliament.

This was rejected by Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office.

Mr Leighton said the May Day parade on May 3 to brief people who had marched from Scotland to support the 5,500 MPs through the Home Office was a "demonstration of a school caretaker, on the morning after the trouble, had seen police carefully remove rocks and boulders from the square where there was a pile of contractor's rubble. Clearly this was to be used at the police press conference later. Also seen was the removal of a span-type railing at the school. The school caretaker was prepared to give evidence.

Mr Shaw said that for more than 150 years, accountability had been put on the Home

Senate pressure forces US to study measures against Pretoria whites

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In another twist to its beleaguered South Africa policy, the Reagan Administration is studying a series of "restrictive measures" aimed specifically at the white minority population.

The measures clearly fall far short of the punitive sanctions that are still being firmly resisted by President Reagan. But they do go some way towards meeting congressional demands for a more

assertive stand against Pretoria. Even so, the Republican-controlled Senate looks certain to press ahead with a sanctions Bill, in a clear signal to the Administration that its policy must be toughened and clarified.

Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said his proposed sanctions Bill would seek economic reprisals with-

out requiring withdrawal of all American assets from South Africa. Mr. Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, is being sent to London next week for top-level consultations on the kinds of measures the Administration has in mind.

They include an end to landing rights for South African Airways, restrictions on issuing visas, and the freezing of South Africans' bank accounts in America.

Mr. Crocker invented the term "constructive engagement", which from 1981 has defined Reagan Administration policy towards South Africa. The expression has now been abandoned.

A revised policy direction is obviously in the making, with the final outcome dependent on several factors, including Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission to Southern Africa; the critical August 3-5 Commonwealth meeting in London; the EEC foreign ministers' talks in September; and the tone of remarks by President Botha at his forthcoming party conference.

The speed with which the Administration is pulling back from the intransigent position outlined by President Reagan on Tuesday has surprised many observers. It is seen as a tacit admission that Mr. Reagan's important policy speech on Tuesday was a disastrous miscalculation of the national mood.

Mr. George Shultz, the Secretary of State, said that some sanctions were already in place — a reference to limited measures imposed reluctantly by President Reagan last September — and that "no doubt over time, if things don't change, there will be more".

Black citizenship hopes are dashed

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Millions of black people living in the independent homelands will have no chance of regaining their South African citizenship despite earlier government pledges that this was its intention.

Details of the new Restoration of South African Citizenship Act have been outlined by the Department of Home Affairs in Pretoria.

Only people who are citizens of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei but who work and live permanently with their families in South Africa will qualify for restored South African citizenship.

It is estimated that about five million people residing permanently in the homelands will have no chance of regaining their citizenship. They will also have to obtain work permits to work in South Africa or face severe penalties under the Aliens Act.

Hundreds of thousands of people living in townships on the borders of Bophuthatswana and on the borders of Ciskei and East London will be locked into a permanent

"quasi-migrant" status, according to Professor Alf Steadler of the University of the Witwatersrand.

ANC men sentenced: Two African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas linked to Mr. Klaas de Jonge, the Dutch fugitive who has been in refuge in The Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria for 12 months, have been sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment on terrorism charges.

The court, at Nykistroom in the northern Transvaal, heard that Mr. de Jonge established an arms cache in Mamelodi township, outside Pretoria, for the two Johannesburg-based guerrillas, aged 27, and Msofisi Gotshe, aged 28.

Peaceful day claim: The Bureau for Information, sole source of official news about events involving the state of emergency, reported that for the 24 hours up to 6 am yesterday "on the whole South Africa experienced the most peaceful day since the state of emergency was announced." It said no deaths or injuries were reported.

Cavaco's land Bill defeated

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

The Portuguese Parliament has voted down the Government's proposed revision of the agrarian reform law.

While this was expected, it represents yet another parliamentary defeat for Professor Aguiar-Cavaco, Silva, the Prime Minister, and once more raises the possibility that his Social Democrat Government might resign.

The Government proposed to dismantle a large part of the system of land-holding in the agrarian reform region of Alentejo, which was introduced in 1977, after most of the large estates were occupied by farm workers and turned into communist-controlled co-operatives.

In Parliament on Thursday the Socialists, Communists, Democratic Renewal Party, Democratic Movement Party and the Greens voted against the Government. Only the right-wing Christian Democrats gave it their support.

The leader of the Democratic Renewal Party, Senhor Herminio Martinho, told Parliament that his party was willing to talk to other parties to find an alternative to the present Government if it resigned. He thought that this was preferable to calling elections.

The Social Democrats have said they would not take part in a coalition government without calling elections. Senhor Cavaco Silva believes his party, which won 29 per cent of the vote in October, could now get a majority, which is very doubtful.

The Socialists do not want elections before they have changed their party and changed their image under their new leader, Senhor Vitor Constancio, who replaced Dr. Mario Soares when he was elected President in January. They do not want to form a coalition, but might be willing to join one if there was no alternative.

Islands minister rejects charges

By Rodney Cowton

Mr. Nathaniel Francis, who resigned on Thursday as Chief Minister of the remote British colony of the Turks and Caicos Islands, yesterday rejected criticisms that his Government had indulged in unconstitutional behaviour, political discrimination and administrative malpractices.

These charges are levelled at Mr. Francis and two colleagues who resigned with him, Mr. Robert Hall, who had been Minister of Health and Education, and Mr. Alden Durham, Minister of Works, in a report prepared by Mr. Louis Blom-Cooper QC.

There had been fears that the constitutional changes might provoke civil unrest on the islands, which lie 200 miles east of Cuba, but yesterday all was said to be peaceful.

Mr. Timothy Eggar, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, repeated these allegations in the Commons when he reported the Government's decision to replace the executive council in the islands with an advisory council.

He said: "This is an interim measure. We are not suspending the constitution and substituting direct administration by the Governor. We are not taking away the franchise."

"We will appoint a constitutional commission to review the constitution and make recommendations for the future. It will aim to conclude its review by the end of the year and will be followed by fresh elections."

Mr. Eggar said that Mr. Blom-Cooper's report had found Mr. Francis and two of his ministerial colleagues "unfit to hold ministerial office".

It had also found that the leader of the Opposition party and a senior Opposition figure had been involved in a conspiracy to commit public order offences in order to overthrow Mr. Francis's Government.

Mr. Blom-Cooper had observed that "such is the corrupting effect of patronage

throughout the system that this was the only means of protest open to them". The report says "the position of the Government as the main employer and dispenser of largesse has, against the background of the patronage system, put great power into the hands of unscrupulous politicians".

It says persistent unconstitutional behaviour, contraventions of the freedom of the individual from political discrimination and "intolerable" (not to say seditious) conduct by leading Opposition members of the Legislative Council are constant blights upon a constitutionally ordered society which is already displaying signs of political instability.

The report specifically accuses from criticism Mr. Emmanuel Missick, who only took office as Minister of Commerce and Development and Tourism in May.

Both Mr. Francis and Mr. Hall yesterday criticized Mr. Blom-Cooper's findings. Mr. Francis denied that there had been abuse of the power of patronage, and said Mr. Blom-Cooper had been wrong to recommend that he, Mr. Hall and Mr. Durham should not again hold ministerial responsibility.

He believed that the British had wanted to topple his Government and had succeeded. He thought they had wanted to do so because they thought there had been a link between him and a previous Chief Minister and two other former ministers who had been convicted of drug offences in Florida.

But "there is no such connection. I do not handle drugs directly or indirectly," Mr. Francis said.

Mr. Hall said the British action had been high-handed and based on a lack of understanding of what the people of the islands wanted. He was also a cover-up for some of the failures of Britain in providing employment and development in the islands.

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Fires devastate forests on Riviera

A devastated landscape shows the effects of two days of fires on the French Riviera, which have destroyed more than 15,000 acres of forest, threatened villages and caused thousands to flee from homes and camping sites.

Reinforcements have had to be flown in from Paris to help the 3,000 firemen brought in from 10 departments in the surrounding area (Diana Geddes writes).

Many are exhausted, having already had to tackle this summer some of the worst fires on record. More than 60,000 acres of forest have been destroyed in the South of France and Corsica so far this year.

Reports that one person had died in the fires appear to have been unfounded, but several firemen have been injured. Earlier in the month four

firemen were killed when their plane crashed while fighting fires in the Pyrenees. Their union has called a one-day strike next Tuesday in protest against the state of repair of many of the planes, and in support of a claim for higher wages.

M. Charles Pasqua, the Minister of the Interior, admitted on Thursday that there were failures in the fire-fighting operations.

Problems go on hold at the UN

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Several difficult international problems in which Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, has been involved for much of his term in office will have to be put on hold for some weeks while he recovers from heart bypass surgery.

In a four-hour operation on Thursday, surgeons performed a quadruple bypass after finding abnormalities in what had been described as precautionary tests.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar, who is 66, had complained of extreme fatigue when he returned from a long European tour last week. He cancelled visits to several African countries due to begin this week. His mediation efforts have focused on the conflicts in

Press report of West Bank offer

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

An intriguing and apparently authoritative report in one of Beirut's leading daily newspapers yesterday suggested that Mr. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, was prepared to make concessions in his talks with King Hassan, telling the Moroccan monarch that "everything is negotiable" providing it does not undermine Israel's security, and promising to give "serious thought" to aspects of the Arab peace plan agreed at Fez four years ago.

The report, by Mr. Amin Radwan, the Cairo correspondent of *As Safir*, was reportedly obtained from Egyptian sources after King Hassan gave President Mubarak a long telephone briefing on his meeting with Mr. Peres.

It says that the Israeli Prime Minister was prepared to give Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip "autonomy" for five years, followed by "the right to self-determination" five years later. Palestinians on the West Bank could then choose to live under Israeli sovereignty or in a "confederation" with Jordan.

The paper quoted Mr. Peres as saying that "regardless of any framework the Palestinians may eventually opt for, they will not be allowed to have an army of their own. After 15 years, they can establish some form of diplomatic missions abroad and at the United Nations."

According to *As Safir*, the Israeli Prime Minister refused to negotiate with Mr. Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization because they were "a group of terrorists". The paper's correspondent

Greeks vie for 'lost' RAF gold

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The British Embassy in Athens has asked the Greek Ministry of Defence to investigate reports that rival Greek treasure-hunters are after the wreckage of a wartime Royal Air Force plane off the island of Euboea, in an attempt to retrieve a reported cargo of gold coins.

"If indeed there is such gold, we shall certainly claim it, since it would still be British Government property," an embassy spokesman said yesterday.

The embassy was alerted when the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine announced this week that it had granted the research ship *Poseidon* a licence for underwater exploration in the Gulf of Oreoi, off the north coast of Euboea.

However, Mr. Christos Eleftheriou, a machinist aged 51, who was born in Oreoi, asked the authorities to withdraw the licence on the ground that he had seen the wreckage of the aircraft and already obtained permits himself.

He claims that he saw the British plane ditch after a dogfight with German aircraft in the summer of 1943 and sink some 400 yards from the fishing boat he was in. "I was then aged seven and we were fishing with dynamite. I know exactly where it is," he said.

He claims he was negotiating the hire of the *Poseidon* for the search when he discovered that her owner had applied for a licence himself.

Reports that the aircraft was carrying 20 cases of gold sovereigns, which could have a current value of 140 billion drachmas (£700 million), are attributed by Mr. Eleftheriou to the unnamed pilot of the RAF plane, who apparently survived the crash and was reported to have gone to Oreoi last summer with divers in an attempt to find the wreck.

The Ministry of Merchant Marine said it had no record of a licence for any British search for aircraft wreckage in that area. British Embassy sources in Athens said that if the plane did carry any gold they doubted whether it would be as much as is reported.

"If this was a cargo of gold on its way to Middle East headquarters, it would not have been overflying German-occupied Greece, particularly in broad daylight," they said.

"But if it was headed for the Greek mountains to make a drop of gold coins for the partisans, it would not have been anywhere near that quantity."

Shamir vows to carry on talks with Arabs

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the leader of the Likud faction, said yesterday that he means to continue the policy of trying to hold meetings with Arab leaders when he takes over as Prime Minister of Israel in October.

In a radio interview after an hour-long briefing from Mr. Peres on his meeting with King Hassan, Mr. Shamir said there was no possibility of direct short-term progress as a result of the Moroccan talks.

But he added: "Without doubt I shall try to continue these contacts, which will ultimately bring peace between the Arabs and ourselves."

Mr. Shamir was not very impressed with the achievement of the Moroccan meeting. "Hassan did not say it was a failure, and Peres did not describe it as an extraordinary success," he said.

Mr. George Bush, the US Vice-President, arrives in Israel tomorrow at the start of a 12-day Middle East tour during which he is expected to try to exploit the break in the Arab front which has appeared with the Peres visit.

The trip has long been planned, probably as part of his campaign for Jewish support of his candidacy in the 1988 presidential elections.

Martyr of Shias alive in Libya, envoy says

Beirut (AFP) — Imam Moussa Sadr, the Lebanese founder of the Shia Muslim Amal movement, who vanished on a visit to Libya in 1978, is alive in a Libyan jail, according to the Lebanese Ambassador to Senegal, Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim.

He has told his Government, quoting Senegalese officials, that the Imam is in Sibha with a Lebanese journalist, Mr. Abbas Badreddine, but that Sheikh Mohammad Yacoub, who was also on the trip, died in jail.

Imam Moussa went to Libya at the invitation of Colonel Gaddafi, and the affair has poisoned Lebanese-Libyan relations. He is widely regarded as a Shia martyr, with a fanatical following.

Mauritians quit Cabinet

Port Louis (Reuters) — Three Mauritian MPs have resigned, saying that the Prime Minister, Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, had failed to lead both the country and his Militant Socialist Movement party.

They are the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Nunkeswarsingh Deerpalsingh, the Works Minister, Mr. Rohit Niemo Beedassy, and the Minister of Local Government, Mr. Rashid Soobadar, all of MSM.

Chess draw

Bienne, Switzerland (AP) — Werner Hug of Switzerland held Tony Miles, the British grandmaster, to a draw in an adjourned game at the Bienne international chess tournament. John Nunn of Britain retained the lead, with three points from four rounds.

Time to rest

Tokyo (Reuters) — The Japanese Cabinet will cancel six summer meetings to force civil servants and ministers to rest and to help to tone down Japan's "workaholic" image.

Fallen hero

Givskud, Denmark (Reuters) — Frederik, the shy bull elephant which fled and fell after persistent sexual harassment from seven amorous she-elephants, has died of a heart attack.

UN expulsion

Washington (Reuters) — The US has expelled Mr. Alireza Deyhim, the third-ranking member of Iran's United Nations diplomatic delegation, on charges of spying.

Final flight

Caracas (UPI) — A man carrying both Swiss and Italian identity died at Caracas airport after two of 18 packets of cocaine apparently broke open in his stomach on a flight from Rio.

Appeal denied

Zagreb (Reuters) — The Croatian Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Andrija Arukovic, the Yugoslav war criminal aged 86, against the death sentence imposed in May.

Long curfew

Colombo — The Sri Lanka Parliament extended the state of emergency for another month by 124 votes to one. Two parties abstained, and the Communist MP voted against.

Hostage freed

Zamboanga (AP) — A Filipino woman kidnapped with a Swiss tourist last week by Muslim separatists in the southern Philippines has been released.

Swim to jail

Tokyo (Reuters) — A Korean wanted for drug smuggling has surrendered to police after claiming he swam the freezing 32-mile straits from South Korea to Japan to escape.

£1m win lost

Baltimore (UPI) — A Maryland £1 million lottery fortune was lost when the ticket was neither received in the mail nor handed in. The amount will be added to the next draw.

Nuns set free

Nairobi (UPI) — Two American nuns, Sister Sean Underwood, aged 43, a Medical Mission of Mercy pilot, and Sister Nancy Lyons, aged 49, who were captured by rebels in southern Sudan on Monday, have been freed.

TV team lost

La Paz (UPI) — A single-engine Cessna carrying a US TV crew and three photographers is missing in the Bolivian jungle after leaving for a cocaine laboratory seized by a US-Bolivian drugs force.

Own goal

Milan (AP) — The 22 Italian footballers who won the 1982 World Cup in Spain are to face charges of failure to declare foreign currency.

Mixed blessing

Toulouse (AFP) — A man who posed as a Belgian bishop and sold blessings at Lourdes was jailed for two years for passing bad cheques.

East Germans' refugee ploy upsets the West

From Frank Johnson, West Berlin

West Berliners are becoming annoyed that, unlike in the old days, the world does not seem to be taking much interest in the latest Berlin crisis.

The crisis has for weeks taken the form of East German sending over from East Berlin thousands of "refugees" from the Third World, Iranians, Pakistanis, Ghanaians, Lebanese, Sri Lankans.

Some stay in West Berlin. Others make their way to West Germany.

After the Second World War, West Germany — and by extension West Berlin — adopted an impeccably liberal policy on political asylum.

leaving East Germany for West Germany, via Berlin. But all that was before mass jet travel.

East Germany has realized that West Germany's liberalism about asylum-seekers offers a way of making money for its languorous airline.

Interflying advertisers in Third World newspapers, offering a way of reaching the West without a visa being needed.

The fare from Ghana, for example, is about £300. The Ghanaians, other Third World nationals, arrive at East Berlin's airport, Schönefeld. They receive a transit visa allowing them to go through East Berlin to the West. There they are told, accurately enough, that they can cross to the other side and will not be asked for papers once there.

Some walk over at one of the pedestrian crossing points. Others catch underground or surface trains at Friedrichstrasse, the last station on the eastern side of the Wall. The interlocking courier explains that they can either stay in West Berlin, or should make their way to the main railway station and catch a long-distance train to Helmsstedt, the first West German town reached on the main line westward from Berlin.

The courier tells them that there is one word which they must remember, so as to use it to the first policeman or official who stops them, either in West Berlin or on the platform at Helmsstedt-asylum. Otherwise there is a risk they might be sent back to East Berlin.

In reality, most of the asylum-seekers, with the possible exception of some of the Iranians, are economic, rather

than political, refugees. Yet all insist that they are fleeing persecution.

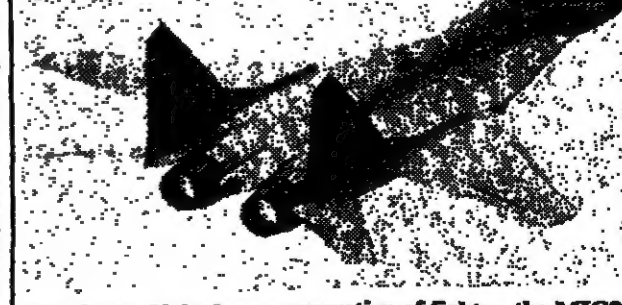
The traffic is expected to reach 100,000 this year. Under the asylum laws the West Germans and West Berliners must provide accommodation. Tents have been put up in West Berlin and halls requisitioned by the municipality. A huge burden has been placed on the small town of Helmsstedt.

Here in West Berlin, it is broadly agreed that, while the East Germans' main motive is their never-ending search for hard currency, there are several other advantages from their point of view: it places a burden on West Germany. As West Germans become angry and start to say rude things about all these black and brown abusers of the right of asylum, it enables West Ger-

many to be depicted as "racist". Above all, it might force the British, American and French occupying powers in West Berlin to introduce immigration checks and restrictions on the western side of the Wall. This would help East Germany's long-standing claim that the Wall is its national border and that East Berlin is its capital. For complicated legal reasons connected with the still-unsigned peace treaty ending the Second World War, the Western allies do not want to admit this.

An American diplomat in East Berlin said that, in private conversation with him, East German officials had been openly cynical about the use of asylum-seekers and have said such things as: "They say they've got a liberal, free society over there. Let them prove it."

West shown new MiG



The Soviet Union's new generation of fighter, the MiG-29, making its debut in the West at a military air show in Kuopio-Rissala, Finland, earlier this month.

Progress in Hong Kong talks

The fourth round of meetings of the Sino-British joint liaison group, overseeing the transition of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty after 1997, ended in London yesterday with both sides agreeing that positive results had been achieved (Rodney Cowton writes).

Among topics discussed had been the Hong Kong shipping register, certificates of identity and air service agreements. The design for a Hong Kong identity card had been agreed.



IMPARTIAL AND SENSITIVE

When the enforcement of the law becomes entangled with racial concerns, the police are expected to act in accordance with two injunctions which, though perfectly compatible in strict logic, may sometimes point in opposite directions and which always demand a difference of emphasis. The first is that the law must be enforced ("there must be no no-go areas"); and the second is that the law must be enforced "sensitively".

In some interpretations, of course, these injunctions actually contradict each other. When "community leaders" from minority communities ask the police to enforce the law relating to drug abuse sensitively because drug-taking is part of a Caribbean culture, they are usually asking for a discreetly blind eye to law-breaking.

The criticisms of Thursday's Metropolitan Police anti-drug operation in Brixton — criticisms from both local community leaders and some visiting Euro-MPs — come perilously close to such absurdity. Whatever the final result of court proceedings against the more than 50 people charged, it is generally agreed that drug-dealing is firmly established in the area. This has brought other crimes in its train. Local residents were understandably anxious and called upon the police to take action. A police operation of some kind was plainly justified.

It might perhaps be argued that the actual raid — which involved 340 police officers, with 1,500 more in reserve, some of them armed — was an excessive use of police resources. But the police had good cause to act with sufficient force to make resistance pointless. Policemen had been injured before, when attempting arrests. And in the event, a machete, knives, a handgun and ammunition, as well as drugs, were seized.

Ms Linda Bellos, the Labour leader of Lambeth council, advances the more fanciful theory that the police operation was "designed to cause a riot situation". But the police had warned community leaders of their intentions and printed a letter explaining their action to local residents. That hardly suggests a provocative intent.

Anyway, whom did the police intend to provoke? Not those local residents who called on them to take action. There are only groups of people who might understandably take serious offence at the police raid — the drug dealers themselves, and those to whom any police action is suspect because the police themselves are suspect.

There are further refinements of hypocrisy — on both sides of the argument. Those who advocate "sensitivity" in drug law enforcement tend to deplore the failure of the police

to act with sufficient vigour and impartiality against racial harassment. But it must be said that those who are most keen to enforce the anti-drug laws without qualifications have not always been loud in demanding that the law be enforced more vigorously against racial attacks.

On the face of it, the argument might be made that these crimes, however, vicious, are ordinary crimes of violence to be dealt with by regular police methods. But this week's report of the Commons Home Affairs Committee establishes clearly that where the police have made special arrangements to counter such racial violence, they have had quite dramatic success. In Tower Hamlets, for instance, such methods as a 24-hour helpline and the use of volunteers from the local Bangladeshi community, which testify to increased police awareness of the problem, have pushed up the arrest/clear up rate from 8 per cent in 1984 to 31 per cent a year later.

The report's recommendations deserve wide circulation and quick adoption. The law is enforced when it is enforced impartially against all criminals. It is enforced sensitively when it is enforced impartially on behalf of all law-abiding citizens. And between these two injunctions, there is, happily, no contradiction.

CHERNOBYL OBSCURED

Last weekend, the people of the Soviet Union were given their first insight into the scale of the Chernobyl disaster. A tentative and sketchy press report on the interim findings of the government investigation noted the cause of the accident (an unauthorized experiment) and alluded to its longer-term effects, on people's health, on agriculture and on the Soviet power grid.

This report appeared nearly three months after the Chernobyl radiation leak was detected in Sweden. Throughout that time cause and effect had been consistently obscured behind a Soviet epic in which firefighters, doctors, scientists and displaced people became heroes.

The information gap allowed speculation, some of it irresponsible, to run rife. In the West there was talk of several thousand dead, of a clandestine military application of the reactor. In the Soviet Union people exchanged tales of genetic mutation and recommended alcohol as an antidote to radiation sickness. Unaccustomed to detailed information, they magnified snippets of fact to the proportions of a natural disaster. And, reading between the incomplete lines of the preliminary investigation, they were not far wrong.

The findings are disturbing both for what they say and for what they do not say. What they say is that the accident occurred as a result of an unauthorized experiment on a reactor withdrawn for maintenance. We, and the Soviet public, are asked to believe

that workers at the power station took it upon themselves to conduct experiments on a nuclear reactor without authorization, without supervision, and outside their normal working time.

This stretches credibility, both because of the dangers of such an enterprise, and because of the prevailing attitude to work in the Soviet Union. Overtime is rarely voluntary and taking initiative — of any kind — is a high risk proposition and one the majority of Soviet workers avoid, a trait which is frequently blamed for the country's poor economic performance.

No, if experiments were being conducted and if they were not authorized through the prescribed channels, the likelihood is that they were authorized by someone else. Whether this was the ministry responsible for the power station, at republic or national level, a research establishment or even, as some suspect, the military, the blame for the accident does not rest with the workers alone.

Similarly, the decision — made public in the interim report — to institute criminal proceedings against those held responsible, an accident of the order of Chernobyl is not a matter for a criminal prosecution alone, or even at all. It requires a more fundamental analysis of what caused or contributed to the action — or inaction — of those indicted.

And here is where the preliminary findings (at least as far as they have been reported) are most disappointing. Responsibility is assigned

in the time-honoured Soviet manner to personal failings, rather than failings of the system. Heads have rolled, up to and including the head of a deputy minister. The Communist Party has issued its reprimands. The whole tragic episode has been cited as an example of why the Soviet leader's campaign to bring discipline and order to the Soviet work force is so important. Chernobyl has been harnessed to Mr Gorbachev's cause. But the cause remains unchanged and unquestioned.

Nothing in the Soviet government's preliminary findings (as they have been reported) touches on either the design or the operation of the Soviet Union's nuclear power stations. There are no generalizations, however tentative, about the siting of nuclear power stations, about the future of the country's nuclear power programme, about the potential risks of nuclear power poorly managed. There is only the certainty that proceeds from fixing blame on individuals.

The Soviet authorities have promised to present their full report, running to several hundred pages at a special meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in a month's time. Whether or not the report is made public — and it should be made public for the benefit of every other country which has or plans to build nuclear power stations — it must ask not only who, but also why. And if the Soviet authorities lack the courage to pose that question, it should be done for them.

REIGNING CATS — AND DOGS

Slowly but inexorably, the government has moved itself to do away with dog licences. Our rulers are wise to have considered their position carefully; in this country, dogs stir passions unknown elsewhere. Fido, Rex and Pride of Tralee the Third can do nothing wrong (in their owners' eyes, at any rate), and the mere hint of a suggestion that they will bear watching (whence the licence) has always been apt to cloud the atmosphere.

Others take, to put it mildly, a contrary view. We have heard it said that the licence fee should be raised to £1,000, or £150,000 (a week) for anyone who wants to sport a Doberman Pinscher; such people jeer at Fido and cross the road nervously when they see Rex tugging at his lead.

We have never wished to take sides. But our proximity to the Isle of Dogs has meant that it might become matter for embarrassment if we did not declare ourselves sometime.

On the matter of the licenses itself we have nothing to add. A different aspect of the matter falls to be considered. Has it ever struck you as odd that nobody has ever advocated the licensing of cats, at no matter what rate a year? It cannot be a coincidence, surely; nor can

this extraordinary one-sidedness be attributed to a lapse by some Under-Secretary in 1878. What is it about cats that has always made them not only unlicensable, but manifestly seen to be unlicensable?

Well, just look at the creatures. You can call them serene, if you love them, or smug, if you don't, but in either case you realize that such self-sufficiency, such blithe contempt for regulations and good order, such sleek certainty of purpose — undiscoverable by us though that purpose may be — means that any attempt to demand to see their licences would be rejected with a mixture of scorn and hilarity; not for nothing did some wise observer coin the phrase "enough to make a cat laugh", thus indicating that only the very finest jest, the cream of jests you might say, will suffice to make a cat give way publicly to mirth. But trying to license them would certainly have brought cat-laughing galore.

It has been, of course, unfair to dogs. But that is not our concern; the universe is unfair, and it behoves all sensible folk to recognize the fact and stop complaining about what they cannot alter. In Ancient Egypt, cats were worshipped, and they clearly got a taste for it; to

this day they go about as though they expect hourly libations, and most of the time they are not disappointed. Perhaps one day there will be an Animal Equality Commission, before which the dogs may plead that they are suffering from an inferiority complex, but that day is not yet.

The cats (if they will pardon the expression), still rule the roost, and anyone trying to reverse the order of animal priorities will be lucky to escape with nothing but scratches. All through the ages, though it must gail the dog-lovers to admit it, the special status of the cat has been recognized. Did not the great Beethoven call his Fifth Symphony O Puss 67? If he loved them so much that he not only kept so many but counted them so carefully, the rest of us had better not argue.

It may be objected that we have still not declared our selves on the matter of dog-licenses. No, but we have always faced reality. Liberty or licence, that is the question. We have always known enough to give the cats, at least, their liberty. Whether dogs are ready now for equality and fraternity, is something which only they and Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Animal Kingdom, can decide.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Palace and Number 10

From Mr A. L. Le Quesne

Sir, It is impossible to react with anything but total dismay to the revelations of the supposed breach between the Queen and the Prime Minister published in yesterday's *Sunday Times*, and to the point to which the cult of the "inspired leak" has now brought us. There appear to be three possible interpretations of the revelations, all deeply discreditable to all or some of those involved and all more or less alarming.

Firstly, there is the possibility that the story was made up by *The Sunday Times*, or, more likely, that it was based on a gross exaggeration or a gross misunderstanding of some genuine information from the Palace.

If so, the discredit lies overwhelmingly on the shoulders of the Editor of *The Sunday Times* and his staff: this seems to me on the whole the least alarming of the three possibilities, but the depths of irresponsibility it would imply in the management of a leading national newspaper would itself be quite sufficiently appalling.

Secondly, *The Sunday Times* may have reported accurately and in good faith information which it had received from the Palace and originating with one or more of the Queen's personal advisers acting on their own initiative with the aim of influencing public policy by doing so.

I do not think that this possibility (on the whole the most likely) would acquit *The Sunday Times* of the charge of irresponsibility; but this would then become a relatively minor issue when set beside the implication that some of the Queen's closest personal advisers are prepared to drag the Crown right into the political arena in order to achieve a political end, however well-intentioned that end might be. If this is the true explanation, one or more resignations from the Palace staff would seem to be the absolute minimum required to restore public confidence.

Thirdly, it is impossible to avoid facing up to the possibility that the Queen herself may have been aware of the leak and consented to it, at least tacitly. If this is the true explanation, she was surely most gravely ill-advised.

If the issue was confined to the Government's attitude to the application of sanctions against South Africa, it is perhaps conceivable that the conflict between her roles as Queen of Great Britain and head of the Commonwealth might leave her with little alternative to such action.

But the revelations explicitly represent the breach between the Queen and the Prime Minister as being far wider than this, and as being related to a whole range of broad domestic issues; and for the

Queen to tolerate such a leak would imply so glaring a breach of the tradition of the Crown's political neutrality that this possibility can surely be ruled out. However, it should rest heavily on the shoulders of those who played any part in its transmission to the public that the making of such a revelation was bound to make this possibility a matter of public debate.

We can only hope, as a minimum, that the temptation to welcome the revelations as a handy stick to belabour the Government with will be strenuously resisted by a few minutes' reflection on their likely impact on the constitutional conventions that govern the workings of the monarchy.

Yours etc,
A. L. LE QUESNE,
22 St John's Hill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
Shr 21.

From Mrs Denise Sheldon
Sir, Your Chief Political Correspondent, Philip Webster, quotes (July 22) the MP for Birmingham, Selby Oak, as having said: "Somebody must go. It is absolutely certain that if the Queen does not dismiss one or several of her advisers it will be clear that the leaks were with her blessing".

Let us hope Mr Beaumont-Dark is mistaken in his assumption, for it completely disregards the possibility that the source of the leak might remain a mystery. In which case it would surely be as unjust to sack an innocent person for the sake of appearances, as it would be to deduce that the Queen must have assented to the leak if she had done nothing of the kind. Yours faithfully,
DENISE SHELDON,
Wanders,
55 Dale Avenue,
Hassocks, West Sussex,
Jy 22.

From Captain John Prescott, RN (ret)

Sir, At both the schools I attended before the war it was the accepted thing that when a misdemeanour occurred and the culprit(s) could not be readily identified, he (they) invariably stepped forward rather than allow odium (and punishment) to be inflicted generally on all his (their) colleagues.

True, I went to two good schools where words like honour and integrity really meant something, but it would be nice to think, if there really was a leak, that similar standards still applied to those honoured to be called to serve her Majesty.

I am, etc,
JOHN PRESCOTT,
Cox Hill,
Marnhill,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset,
Jy 22.

dependent statistician in a way which we consider wholly convincing. The Lord Chancellor, however, decided to prefer his own survey.

So there remains considerable disagreement, and the Coopers report has not been invalidated. This is why we welcome the establishment of a mechanism for identifying data from which an informed decision can be taken in future.

What is vital is objectivity. It cannot be right that the Lord Chancellor should simply decide to rely on his own report and dismiss that of our consultants as inaccurate. The new mechanism should ensure that we play to better rules in future. Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ALEXANDER,
Chairman,
The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar,
11 South Square,
Gray's Inn, W.C1.

York, later King George V, was given the title as the second son of the then Prince of Wales, who became later King Edward VII. Queen Victoria did not confer the title of Duke of York upon any of her four sons.

The previous second sons to hold the title were James, Duke of York, second son of King Charles I, later to become King James II, and Frederick, Duke of York, second son of King George III. Yours sincerely,
LIONEL KOPELOWITZ,
41 Montagu Court,
Montagu Avenue,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
Jy 24.

King George V conferred the title on his second son, Prince Albert. The previous Duke of

be given power to deny registration to any independent school in which the infliction of physical pain is a recognised method of punishment".

Sir, at a stroke you have it! We drive across on the left, while the French can continue to drive over on the right — but backwards. Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
The Gables,
7 Warden Hill Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
Jy 23.

applied to amusement with prizes (AWP) fruit machines although, as jackpot machines do, they exploit the same principles of learning, leading to habit-formation. The result is an anomalous situation whereby children and young people under the age of 18 years are permitted to play them in amusement arcades as well as cafes, snack bars and fish and chip shops.

In surveys done in the second-ary schools of one London borough I found that two-thirds of the schools were concerned about problems resulting from pupils gambling on fruit machines. Fruit machines of any sort should not be available in places with free public access where

English church heritage at risk

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Sir, The Chief Executive of English Heritage and your other correspondents (July 17) have rightly drawn attention to the system whereby a listed ecclesiastical building is exempt from most of the controls that apply to listed secular buildings.

This exemption is not confined solely to Anglican churches for it also extends to non-conformist places of worship while they remain in religious use. Furthermore the non-conformist churches do not have their own advisory system comparable to the Church of England to monitor any alterations to the interiors of chapels.

If a decision is made by a non-conformist congregation to apply for demolition of a listed chapel, listed building consent is required. However, in such cases local authority planning officers may not always be able to assess the merits of the application, since non-conformist places of worship are far less appreciated and understood than Anglican churches.

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England has completed a survey of over 4,000 surviving non-conformist buildings dating from before 1800 and of selected buildings up to 1914. It has also drawn up a list of those places of worship of the Protestant nonconformist or free churches in England as being especially worthy of preservation.

But chapels and meeting-houses are fast passing into other use or being demolished. For instance, demolition is currently proposed for the former Congregational "Square Chapel" at Halifax. Such buildings should receive the protection that they deserve. Yours faithfully,
TOM HASSALL, Secretary,
Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England,
Forester House,
23 Savile Row, W1.

Sanctions debate

From the Director of Aims of Industry

Sir, An unpleasant aspect of the debate on the South African boycott is the curious lack of interest in the views of black South Africans.

A recent survey by Professor Fatima Meer of the Institute of Black Research in Durban casts doubt on whether South African blacks think that suffering will be good for them. Only 26 per cent of Professor Meer's survey would support divestment, if it meant that many people lost their jobs.

So far as I know, no one has asked the estimated nine dependants of every black wage-earner in South Africa what they think. It is not hard to guess the answer. To quote Chief Buthelezi (who enjoys much more black support than Bishop Tutu, though less from British TV): "They know that jobs will give them economic and political muscle... Divestment will not help the struggle for liberation; it will hinder it". Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS, Director,
Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, W.C1.

Art and advertising

From Professor N. Kuri, FRS

Sir, Dr Bernard Richards's thoughtful and challenging article (July 19) will probably result in a voluminous correspondence, friendly or hostile. May I make a neutral comment?

I often watch television but, even without turning off the set or closing my eyes and plugging my ears, I somehow do not notice the commercials. So, although I know of Blake and Jerusalem, I have only the haziest idea of what Fisons do. Now, out of sheer curiosity, I shall try to see the offending Fisons-Hordern piece, search for Fisons publicity — and congratulate Fisons on a gratis half-page advertisement on a prime page of *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
N. KURI,
University of Oxford,
Department of Engineering Science,
Parks Road, Oxford.

In reverse

From Mr P. J. Freeman

Sir, The letter from the Director of the British Road Federation which you published today (July 16) probably surprised few of your readers (it advocated a more energetic road construction programme). Not so the electrifying headline you accorded it: "Need to back up Channel Tunnel".

Sir, at a stroke you have it! We drive across on the left, while the French can continue to drive over on the right — but backwards. Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
The Gables,
7 Warden Hill Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
Jy 23.

young, immature persons can be exploited by this dangerous form of hard gaming. Furthermore, licensing and regulation of amusement arcades will not deal with machines in cafes, snack bars and fish and chip shops.

Legislation should be introduced to restrict all fruit machines, including the AWP variety, to premises licensed for gaming and liquor. In this way they would only be available to adults.

Yours faithfully,
E. MORAN, (Chairman,
The National Council on Gambling),
Chase Farm Hospital,
Enfield, Middlesex.

ON THIS DAY

JULY 28 1877

A descriptive review of a book by E. L. Arnold which relates episodes in a round trip from Christiania (Oslo) to Bergen

A SUMMER HOLYDAY IN SCANDINAVIA

This summer holiday was spent last year by a wise family who knew how to enjoy themselves without seeking to cram more into a month than a month could comfortably hold. Measured by distances on the map of Norway the space they traversed was not great, but measured by pleasure it was immense. It was quite at the end of July that they found themselves at Trondheim ready to embark on the Hero, one of the Wilson line of steamers, for Christiania; and the 1st of August found the four who composed the family rolling on the unruly billows of the North Sea, and all more or less sea-sick.

An English tourist's baggage had only a nominal examination at the Customs-house — a treatment very different from that which afterwards befell it on the German frontier; and, in fact, all the trouble which our family had with their baggage in Norway arose out of the fact that, like most tourists, they had dragged a great deal too much of it with them from England. They were delightfully ignorant of Norwegian travelling, too, and, before they reached the country, thought that they might ride through Norway or walk through it; they were only in doubt which method of locomotion they should adopt — a doubt speedily dissolved by an interview with Mr. Bennett, the worthy merchant of Christiania, who very soon convinced them that the only way of travelling in Norway was to travel as the rest of the civilized world does. In Norway the civilized world travels in carriages — that well-known two-wheeled vehicle which only affords room for one person with a postbox clinging on to it behind on a ledge, which it is a very bad compliment to a seat to call by that name.

There is not much to be seen in Christiania, so our family very wisely put themselves in a motor car, into the train and proceeded to Eidsvoll, 42 English miles from the capital on the shore of Lake Mjøsen where they dined "liberally but monotonously, on salmon". Five times running they partook of salmon culetta, but when their sixth dish appeared they fled to the balcony outside. Next morning they embarked on the Lake in the little steamer, and after a delicious passage reached Gjøvik about halfway up the Lake about 4 p.m. Here our travellers thought great of the early bird, and the early bird was rewarded with the worm in the shape of the only vehicle, which they secured by making a dash at the post station about a quarter of a mile inland.

When we say that the vehicle in question was a "stoljörre", in English a wretched country cart, with one horse, it will be seen that even the carriage, the national vehicle, sometimes fails the anxious tourist in Norway. Into this, wretched of the condition, they proudly piled their trunks, rifles, and railway bags, and then mounting their only lady on the top of all, they proceeded in triumph on their way, the three men walking beside the sorry conveyance. So they trudged it for eight and a half miles to the next post station... Next morning they made the acquaintance of the carriage which has a light, wooden, spoon-shaped body, with a wicker seat, and a front, a stuffed leather seat very far back, and a big apron which tucks you in on both sides... we have found carolling in Norway very pleasant when the roads are smooth; but roads are like life, not always smooth, but often rutty, and then let the small of the tourist's back speak for the comfort of the conveyance...

Like all the tourists of any stature, they found the 56.8 inch railway short, and wondered at the enormous number of mags — wondering, indeed, rather than admiring, for they had brought guns and rifles with them, only to find as others have found before that there is very little game in Norway, except a few wary wild ducks on the lakes.

But in spite of all the drawbacks, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves... During their return journey they would have suffered much at one or two stations but for the provisions that had brought with them. Thus at Ekre, when they asked for dinner, all they could get was a half-melted piece of butter and some mouldy "blackroot", the staple food of the peasants, which we may inform our readers tastes like very bad dog-biscuit, while others have compared it to the wooden bottom of a hat-box with the paper scraped off...

Sale of the century

From Mrs Denise Williams

Sir, Mrs Jane Whitaker (July 19) and I move in different circles. In London to reach the age of 60 or 65 is a cause for celebration, rather than renitence; could it be that the bad news of advancing years is overtaken by the good news of a free bus pass?

Yours faithfully,
DENISE WILLIAMS,
44 The Ridgeway,
Golders Green, NW11.

Royal developments

From Dr John H. Greensmith

Sir, I notice that the Duchess of York got her wedding snaps back from the chemist the same evening whereas I have been waiting about a week to 10 days for the return of my photographs.

Ah well, perhaps one day my prints will come. Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREENSMITH,
42 Prebend Street,
Bedford,
July 24.

THE ARTS

Television
A cure for insomnia?

When the mind is free, the body is delicate. Today, we seem to have freer minds and more delicate bodies than ever before — so at least would argue the homeopath, George Vitthoulkas — the subject of BBC2's fourth programme on *The Healing Arts*.

Tamasin Day-Lewis's programme took an important subject but treated it with a structural looseness that might have sent a sensitive viewer into a profoundly untroubled sleep. The gentle giant of Greek homeopathy was shown casting dimpled smiles at his patients along with questions like "do you fear mice?" or "what about thunderstorms?" These questions, he argued, when eventually pressed, were designed to discover how best he might apply his remedy in order to achieve "a balance in the whole of the individual". Unfortunately, despite his questions, we never saw how he came up with an answer to the man with back trouble who liked nuts or the woman who could not walk on marble floors.

His curing of these people was against a gloomy prediction that the health of our race is degenerating rapidly. Antibiotics, hormones and vaccines have destroyed our immune systems. Doctors prescribe medicines which might remedy 30 different illnesses instead of just the one requiring treatment. What exactly Vitthoulkas's remedies are remained opaque, but they seem rooted in a tradition, believing like must be cured with like, which goes back to Hippocrates.

In no way must the Greek physician be confused with *hypocrites*, meaning stage actor (one who pretends to be what he is not). Pretence was the very octave of *The Enemy Outside* in Granada's medical drama *The Practice*. Affectionately scripted by Lesley Bruce, this was another pleasant, heart-plucking investigation into how doctors at a Manchester clinic cope with both their patients' problems and their own. Under some stony faces all sorts of hypocrisies were warming away.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Celebrating a giant in stone

The 600th anniversary of Donatello's birth is being widely marked in his native Florence.

Bruce Boucher reports

Donatello and his Contemporaries
Forte di Belvedere

Homage to Donatello
Museo Nazionale del Bargello

The Old Sacristy
San Lorenzo

Italian Drawings from the time of Donatello
Galleria degli Uffizi

Few artists have been as widely admired in their own lifetimes and afterwards as Donatello. Vasari judged him one of the three great heroes of the second stage of the Renaissance and considered Donatello worth a place among the artists of antiquity or beside Michelangelo. More than one of Vasari's contemporaries expressed the opinion that a work by Donatello was the next best thing to classical sculpture. Today, his fecundity of imagination and variety of expression rank Donatello among the foremost artists, comparable to Michelangelo in Vasari's day or Picasso in our own.

The series of exhibitions with which his native Florence is marking the 600th anniversary of his birth provides a remarkably comprehensive view of his career and achievements. The celebrations are a conjunction of politics and art reminiscent of the rapport between Donatello and the Medici. But today patrons have been replaced by sponsors, and the major exhibition, Donatello and his Contemporaries, represents a collaboration between Florence and its American "twin sister", Detroit. The exhibition runs until September 7 in the Forte di Belvedere, a Medicean retreat over-

looking the Pitti Palace and Florence itself. There, some hundred objects in stone, bronze, clay and wood record the achievements of Donatello in a way unlikely to be duplicated for another century.

The exhibits are grouped thematically and chronologically, beginning with works by Donatello's teacher, Ghiberti, and ending with sculptors who matured after Donatello's death in 1466. The *chefs-d'oeuvre* of Donatello are found on the ground floor and include three statues, among them the vigorous *John the Baptist* from Siena Cathedral, whose faceted, angular surface is like wood sculpture translated into bronze, and the *Mary Magdalene* from the cathedral museum, a harrowing, Giacomini-like vision of a soul laid bare by penance.

Four crucifixes by Donatello and two great rivals are also on display, making an unforgettable impression through their juxtaposition. One can see the early pair carved in competition by Brunelleschi and Donatello, where the pronounced naturalism and ungainly proportions of Donatello's figure earned it the description "peasant-like". The third Christ, by Michelozzo, embodies a more restrained version of a Donatellesque pattern, while the fourth, from the convent of Bosco ai Frati, presents us with a later version of this theme by Donatello, disturbing in its combination of high formal beauty and intense pathos.

Beyond these great works, the upper floors of the Belvedere are given over to smaller sculptures which illustrate Donatello's contribution to narrative, the Virgin and Child composition and small bronzes. The extraordinary reliquary bust of San Rossore, newly cleaned and mounted at the proper height, evokes that strong sense of a living presence and felt emotion common to all Donatello's creations. Then, too, there are the drawings in stone, such as the brilliant *Feast of Herod* from Lille, in which the rules of coherent visual perspective were articulated long before Masaccio or Alberti.

Perhaps the most fascinating display in the Forte di Belvedere is of the Virgin and Child reliefs. It was a genre in which Donatello excelled and established patterns followed by artists down to the 19th century. The star attraction of this room is a modelled terracotta known as the *Madonna di Pietrapiana*, which stood in a Florentine street taberna-



Grasp of the art: detail from Donatello's "Madonna di via Pietrapiana"

cle and was found to be an autograph Donatello when recently removed and examined. A late work, it contains marvellous passages of modelling and an astonishing assurance in the angled presentation of the Virgin's chair.

Other exhibitions in Florence highlight various aspects of Donatello and his times. For its *Homage to Donatello* (until July 20) the Bargello has reorganized its sala di Donatello, containing several of his masterpieces from the early *St George* to the ambiguous bronze *David* and the *Amor-Atys*. The chief novelty is the newly restored bust of Niccolò da Uzzano. Modelled and painted, the terracotta shows the Florentine patriot cast in the mould of a Roman hero, and its vivacity and high quality strengthen the traditional attribution to Donatello. Also in the Bargello is a small but fascinating show on Donatello and the 19th century, which draws attention to the forgeries and copies after his work, especially by the notorious Bastianini.

The Uffizi has mounted a major exhibition of 167 Italian Drawings from the time of Donatello (until September 7). Few drawings by Donatello survive, but his influence on artists like Filippo Lippi, Mantegna and Giovanni Bellini was as

strong as that exerted on those working in stone or bronze.

The most sensational of the satellite exhibitions concerns the restoration of the Old Sacristy in San Lorenzo (until September 7). Built by Brunelleschi for the Medici in the 1420s, it was later embellished by Donatello and Verrocchio. The exhibition focuses on Donatello's contribution to the chapel, notably the large stucco roundels with legends of St John the Evangelist and two stucco reliefs of Medici patron saints. Restoration has revealed an extraordinary range of techniques employed by Donatello on the roundels: a background of brick on to which nails were hammered, and then the stucco, a mixture of lime, sand and crushed brick, was modelled directly over the nails. This unusual method shows that Donatello studied the remains of Roman decoration as well as recipes handed down by Vitruvius.

Cleaning has revealed the intensity and restricted range of colours employed by Donatello, ochre-red, blue, white and traces of green, while the vigour and freedom of modelling is breathtaking. These details can be seen by visitors to San Lorenzo as a temporary scaffolding has been erected which will allow them to climb to the level of the roundels.

Radio

Machine-gun chat, dumber than most

I always sit in speechless admiration as the commentators on our great public occasions reel off the facts and figures of the scene in front of them: little slabs of history, intriguing bits of protocol. How do they know and remember so much? Alas, they often don't: it is all part of a briefing and sometimes the briefing or its reader blows the gaffe by getting things wrong.

Last Wednesday, rehearsing the names of famous Westminster Abbey organists, Peter Jones acquainted his listeners with one "Orland Gibbon" of whom the editor of *Grove* would no doubt be glad to learn more. Such small blemishes apart, however, the wedding coverage was as we expect: informative, pictorial within the limits of the medium and celebratory without excessive hype.

But what to say of a concoction which the Association of Independent Radio Contractors has been promoting to ILR stations up and down the country? Made by Radio 210 of Reading as a special edition of its series, *Village Life*, this was a visit to Dummer, homeground of the Ferguson family, and it purported to be a celebration of the marriage. Mike Matthews presented as if he were at Brands Hatch and began: "My first visit was to the father of the bride, Major Ronald Ferguson, and I asked him to tell me about the Guards Polo Club." Just what, we were all wanting to know. At the end of that and each succeeding interview the victim was urged, in the same machine-gun style and with the same repetitive phrase, to choose a bit of music; this not uncommonly drowned his or her last words.

Great traditions were also on display three days before the wedding in *A Gentleman's Place* (Radio 4, Sunday, repeated Friday; producer, Fran Acheson) but here Glyn Worsnip trod the sacred marble of the London clubs. Or some of them: three of the most select — White's, Buck's, Boodle's — had declined or

loftily ignored an invitation to contribute. There was enough without them. General Sir John Hackett recalled how, as a young officer recently elected to the Carlton, he was so nervous of encountering his Tory grandees that it was some time before he dared go in.

Dare he did at last, but following a visit to his tailor. He could not understand the apologetic looks and muttered oaths that greeted him until he noticed that the tailor had inadvertently left one leg of his trousers rolled up.

But the clubs are not quite the bastions of eccentric orthodoxy that they were. The Guards and Cavalry have not only combined but brought in a professional manager — and ex-RAF type at that — who has rescued their finances and made their catering a byword. Unfortunately a passing terrorist sprayed their building with machine-gun fire a while back and security throughout clubland is now a worry, although as Mr Worsnip put it, the most worrying security problem remains how to keep out the women.

If this programme, with its orchestra of well-bred voices was utterly absorbing, so was the near-solo performance that went to make up Mr Fletcher, The Poet (Radio 4 Thursday; producer, Pierce Plowright). J. P. Fletcher, a Leicestershire builder, won a Commonwealth poetry prize in 1951 for a poem about the mining community into which he was born. A bright, studious child, he should have gone to grammar school and did so for one term until his strident mother prevailed: "The others went in' pit, you're going to the pit". Somehow he escaped. He read and he read, buying a *World's Classic* one week, an *Everyman* the next, and later in quiet moments in the office he wrote and he wrote on anything that came to hand. The talent thus developed shone in his speech.

David Wade

Promenade Concert
Precision sprung

BBC Welsh SO/
Yansons

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Not having heard the combination of Maris Yansons and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra before, I was not prepared for a concert of such utterly musical vim and keenness. Mr Yansons has a way, or rather many different ways, of making his orchestra sound at the very peak of condition, always stretched but never frayed, and they respond to him like a spring, quickly and with tensile strength.

Their precision of dynamic nuance, whether in a sudden pianissimo for a couple of bars or a crescendo carried across different groupings, is one testimony to their rapport with their chief guest conductor.

Another is their abundance of magnificent sounds: the dark slabs laid down by trombones in the second and last movements of Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto, for instance, or the unanimous clear freshness of the woodwind ensemble, or the free confidence of solos, especially from the clarinet. The opening performance of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* found Mr Yansons behaving as seriously

and unegotistically as if he had been conducting Bruckner. And I would guess from this concert, where Bruckner never featured, that he would be a remarkable Bruckner conductor: he has that capacity to be blindingly obvious and at the same time, awesomely surprising.

He showed it in the Tchaikovsky, persuading one that the love theme really is a very special melody, and finding a great wealth of interest in the slow music, besides encouraging his players to an eager virtuosity in the faster passages. Sibelius's First Symphony found orchestra and conductor just as closely attuned, and just as unembarrassed. The bits of this mosaic were illuminated with force, and yet there was no risk of disintegration, partly because Mr Yansons showed the composer assembling chunks of Tchaikovsky and Borodin on the blueprint of a new musical architecture.

And no one could doubt the sources when the second movement was so fittingly waltz-like and the third so Polovtsian. Given a strong, deliberate and shinningly resonant Prokofiev performance from John Lill, this was a memorable evening.

Paul Griffiths

Theatre

A rich inheritance

Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme
Hampstead

Casting round for sturdy themes on which to hang their ideas, English playwrights must often envy their counterparts in Ireland. Religious schism, conflicting loyalties, the rival appeals of the world and the hearth — history has handed them an enviably rich compost.

Nor does the political and religious divide raise an insuperable artistic barrier. Frank McGuinness, a lecturer at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, has boldly crossed into alien territory. First given at the Abbey last year, his play presents an outsider's perspective of the insular, beleaguered mentality of the Five Counties' Protestant tradition which is well-informed and acutely felt.

His chosen period is the First World War, his chosen protagonists a group of volunteers for the Ulster Division. Summoned up like ghosts by the modern incarnation of their sole survivor, the eight soldiers are shown in their barracks, on leave in Ulster and finally on the terrible morning of July 1, 1916 as they prepare to meet their Maker in the first Battle of the Somme.

All are Protestant, most are from the country (the two brash Belfast boys jar effectively) and several are unabashed Carsonites; but one — Pyper, whose story this is — stands apart by virtue both of class ("We own Armagh" he announces loftily of his family) and of temperament.

Mocking his fellows' idealism, he proves himself a highly resourceful mischief-maker capable of provoking squabbles out of thin air with his iconoclastic riddling, and succeeds in leading the most



John Bowe: making a point at Hampstead

glib member of the barracks squarely up the garden path with a lurid "confession" about marrying a three-legged Papist whore.

The satire of bone-headed Orange bigotry provides some vivid dialogue and John Bowe as Pyper skewers the obvious targets with relish, but once the characters start developing individual relationships ("pairing and bonding" in the author's unfortunate and anachronistic usage), the piece begins to tread water and very nearly sinks.

The doubt-harried former clergyman and the sports-mad young patriot come to blows in a church; the baker attempts to stiffen the backbone of the nerve-strung dupe; the Belfast boys lament the feeble turn-out for the marching season; and Pyper reveals to the blacksmith who saved his life in action that his cynicism stems from unhappy love and failure as a sculptor.

Michael Attenborough's taut production links these vignettes together skilfully enough, but they hamstring the impetus established in the first half: the more the characters explain their identities the less interesting they become, and it is only in the final act, with an absurd re-enactment of the Battle of the Boyne on piggyback, that the thing enlarges on its early promise.

Martin Cropper

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COLOUR MAGAZINE SPECIAL ISSUE

ALL THAT'S BEST IN BRITISH JOURNALISM

July 26-August 1, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Checkmate to London's pawn brokers

The opening of the World Chess Championship takes place next week in Mayfair. William Greaves tells how Britain captured a share of the event

Unsuspected by hotel guests and unrecognized from their traditional square-jawed and Homburg-hatted cartoonists' archetype, a steady stream of officials from the Soviet Embassy have spent much of the last few weeks flitting between the Park Lane Hotel, overlooking Green Park in London, and two "safe houses" whose top secret locations in the capital are known to only a handful of people.

At the same time, strange things have been going on in and around the hotel's ballroom. Two lavatories, for instance, have been built and sited carefully so that one cannot be seen from the other, and for the next five weeks both will be under constant surveillance.

In addition, a set of hi-tech, dimmable fluorescent lights have been installed with the specific requirement that they be capable of bathing a table five metres beneath them with anything between 130 and 180 foot candles of illumination. If it all sounds like the clinical preparations for a third-degree interrogation of the type usually encountered in an Eric Ambler novel, the faces and demeanour of the two men for whom it has all been designed will do little to dispel that illusion.

Those two men are Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, who next Monday, at 5pm precisely, begin an encounter that will not only place both of them under intense psychological stress, but is also unique. For the first time in the 100-year history of the World Chess Championship, two Russians have agreed to play each other outside the Soviet Union.

It remains to be seen whether the imagination of the British public will be captured by a match of such cerebral intensity that, as often as not, five hours will be insufficient to finish a single game. What is certain, however, is that the marathon contest will not be allowed to start unnoticed.

At tomorrow's £10,000 opening gala, the entire floor of the Park Lane Hotel ball-



room will be transformed into a chess board, from four giant rooks at each corner will flow Sevraia caviar, and all the guests—including, needless to say, Tim Rice and Elaine Paige of the Chess musical—have been bidden to appear dressed entirely in black and white.

Considering that the outcome of the match will not even be determined in this country—after five weeks of battle, the whole circus will decamp and hotfoot it to Leningrad for the second half of the contest—it might be supposed that such a spectacular launching ceremony in danger of reducing everything that follows to a glorious anticlimax. Such thoughts would miss the point.

What is being celebrated is not so much the start of the championship, but the fact

that, after years of international intrigue which at times has threatened to split the chess world asunder, it is taking place at all—and even more remarkably, in London.

The saga began back in 1983. Anatoly Karpov had been world champion for eight years and 20-year-old Gary Kasparov had just qualified for a semi-final play-off against the third of the great Ks, Viktor Korchnoi, who himself had twice lost to the title holder. That final eliminator was to be played in Pasadena, California.

Korchnoi, for reasons best known to himself, objected to the venue and refused to appear. Perhaps, as a Russian defector, he was concerned about security. Perhaps it was merely a display of petulance. Either way, it was the break for which London had been waiting.

Then, as now, Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines was president of the World Chess Federation. He was then, as now, flamboyant and imperious. Within his rights, but to the dissatisfaction of almost everybody, including the two players, he declared Korchnoi to be in default and awarded the match to Kasparov.

London had never staged a round of the world championship, but Raymond Keene, a British grandmaster and a Times chess correspondent, decided to make his move. If he could raise £120,000, would Campomanes give the match one more chance and would the players agree to a British venue?

Keene approached Dominic Lawson, a journalist, chess enthusiast and son of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lawson, showing all the financial flair of his father, persuaded Acorn, the computer firm, to put up the money. The match was staged at the Great Eastern Hotel. Kasparov won, a charismatic new name emerged to challenge for Karpov's title and, suddenly, London had arrived as a chess city.

The next year found Campomanes in even greater trouble. Arrangements for a much-publicized match between the Soviet Union and the Rest of the World had suddenly collapsed. Could Britain help out? There was, however, one small proviso. Twenty of the most gifted chess players alive, together with their entourages, had to be housed, sat down and ready to start in exactly three weeks' time.

Again Keene accepted the challenge. A different middleman, an investment consultant called Rupert Chetwynd, stepped into the breach, and Mr Eddie Oliver, at that time financial director of the London Docklands Development Corporation, did the rest.

"As soon as I heard of the project, I had two reasons for

wanting to pull it off," Oliver recalls. "We were a young organization and we wanted to prove that we weren't bureaucracy-bound."

"We were also promoting docklands as a telecommunications centre. A great way of demonstrating our potential was to ask Kasparov to put on a display with half of his opponents in New York. What we did was to run the first-ever chess match by satellite. It all worked perfectly."

Later that year, in October 1984, Karpov and Kasparov began their title match in Moscow. Even by world chess standards it was to prove an interminable affair. Karpov, slight, undernourished, correct, and for nine years the king of the world, blasted into his challenger, an outspoken, powerfully-built Armenian from the fringe of the Soviet Union, and streaked into a 5-0 lead.

But then the months drifted by. Draw followed draw. Karpov could not clinch the sixth win he needed, and in the following February, just as hotel bills were mounting towards the unpayable, Kasparov won two games on the trot.

Campomanes stepped in and called the match off. The outcry was instantaneous and a powerful chess lobby made demands for the Filipino's head on a salver.

At first Karpov acquiesced, and then, almost immediately, changed his stance to one of protest against the abandonment. Kasparov, on the other hand, lashed out in all direc-

tions. Karpov, he claimed, was "just plain scared", and Campomanes "a man with no understanding for chess and its problems".

In September last year, in an atmosphere electric with accusation and counter-accusation, the two men sat down in Moscow to scrap it out for a second time. So close was the encounter that at the start of the 24th and last game, six weeks later, a win for either player would have given him the title. Kasparov was victorious and became the new world champion.

Under World Chess Federation rules, Karpov was entitled to a revenge match. Campomanes announced that it had to be played within three months. "Nonsense," said Kasparov. "Play or be stripped of your title," was the Filipino's response. The volcano was rumbling again.

Undeterred, Campomanes invited tenders for the rematch and was not alone in expecting extravagant bids from cities as diverse as Kuala Lumpur, Istanbul, Marseilles and Belgrade. In the event, there were just two envelopes to be opened. Leningrad offered a million Swiss francs (£330,000)—and London 1.8 million (£600,000).

Then, out of the blue and to Campomanes's intense embarrassment, the two Russians agreed to a six-month postponement. London and Leningrad were awarded the split locations, and that should have been an end to the agony. There was, however, to be one more twist.

The British money had been pledged by the Greater London Council. That would have

Past masters and intriguing moves

Although it would have been unthinkable a few years ago that a world championship chess match between two Russians would be played in London, the choice of venue for the first half of the centenary match is historically appropriate.

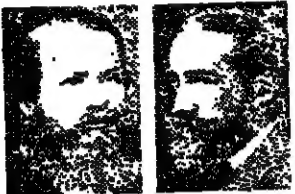
The two men who went to New York, St Louis and New Orleans to fight out that first epic encounter in 1886 were

champions. An incorrigible drunkard, he achieved the remarkable record of being married five times—on each occasion to a woman older than himself.

Since Alekhine, the world championship has been dominated by the Soviet Union, only the brilliant and eccentric American, Bobby Fischer, interrupting a 49-year clean sweep, during which Mikhail Botvinnik became the only man in the championship's history to win and lose his crown three times.

The match in which Fischer took the title from Boris Spassky in 1972 is chiefly remembered for the remarkable Russian claim, after game 16, that Spassky's psychological well-being was being undermined by "some electronic devices and chemical substance" installed in the playing area by the Americans.

An investigation of the stage, air, walls and lights, and no fewer than 18 X-ray photographs of the chairs,



World championship pioneers: Steinitz (left) and Zukertort

Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort. Both were Jews. Steinitz, the unofficial "champion", was born in Prague and represented Austria, while Zukertort described himself variously as Prussian, and Polish, and spoke nine languages, including Hebrew.

Yet, despite their international origins, both lived in England, and London was at that time the unchallenged capital of world chess.

Steinitz, who won the match and remained world champion until 1894, was noted for the same lack of modesty that has distinguished many of his successors, his most famous claim being that he could give God a start of pawn and move, and still beat him.

The first Russian to win the title was Alexander Alekhine although, by the time of his first victory in 1927, he had exiled himself to France and was persona non grata in the Soviet Union. Alekhine, who lost the title in 1935 to the Dutchman, Max Euwe, and regained it two years later, was probably the most colourful of chess's 13 world



Psychological warfare: Fischer (left) and Spassky

revealed nothing more sinister than two dead flies—and the show went on.

Even more extraordinary, however, was the "yoghurt incident" during the Karpov-Korchnoi final of 1978. The Korchnoi camp suggested that Karpov was receiving secret signals from his seconds, contained in the choice of the yoghurt flavour sent to the table.

After a two-day inquiry it was agreed that Karpov could have blueberry yoghurt at 7.15pm, but that any other flavour needed a written request to the arbiters.



Colourful competitors: Alekhine (left), and Euwe



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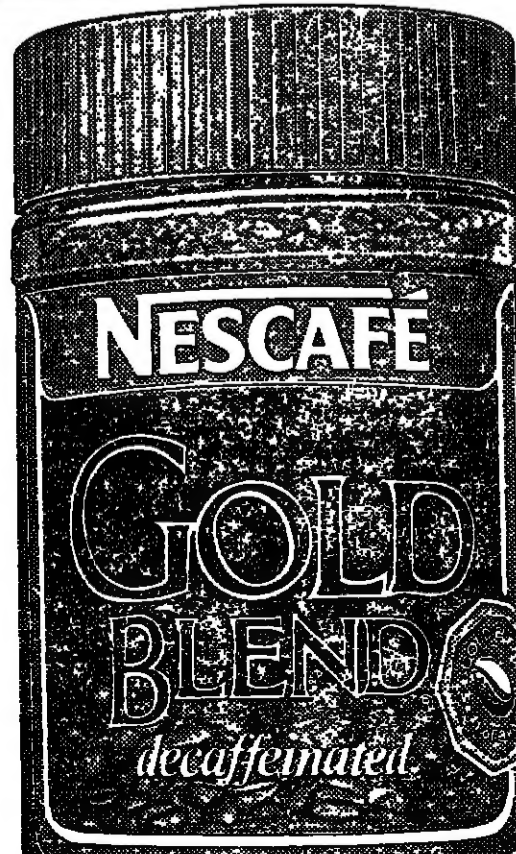
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SATURDAY

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Tilting temples on a moonscape

A sense of adventure

overtakes

Tim Bouquet on the upward trails

of Himachal Pradesh

You know you are getting higher by the frequency with which warning signs appear on the rock faces at hairpin bends. "Speed kills" they warn in big stencilled yellow letters. "Better late than never". "Horn Please". And a herd of sheep and small brown goats jangling bells darts over the sheer drops.

Thousands of feet below roads that cling somehow to vertiginous contours are the lush river valleys of Himachal Pradesh. There are orchards and terraces and a geometry of yellows, browns and greens. Above and beyond, the Himalayas wink in snow from behind a corrugation of 14,000ft hills from where the inhabitants of this north-west Indian state, sandwiched between Kashmir and China, can watch the foreigners drive by and round and round, bound for the greatest tourist attraction on earth.

For those dissatisfied with Kashmir's houseboat ghettos on polluted lakes, neighbouring Himachal is where Himalayan India keeps its splendour and beauty intact for the more discerning and independent visitor.

Famous for its peaks and its apples, Himachal Pradesh is comfortable enough for those not wanting to pioneer but who still have a sense of adventure. For most, the gateway to it is the old British summer capital of Simla. An English church sits incongruously on top of the hill on which the city is built. A honeycomb of houses is stacked up the slopes of the flat ridge where the house of God stands rather sadly, doors bolted, windows cracked or broken. It is from here one first encounters the Himalayas, a hundred miles or more away.

Since the British left Simla its population has exploded past 60,000 and given in to the base. The top two tiers of the old capital are traffic-less, which means the mass of buses, trucks, taxis and cars thrashes angrily around the lower roads. Policemen blow their whistles continually to keep the traffic moving.

The quaintly-named Mall is lined with stately English houses with names plucked straight out of Surrey. Traces of empire abound but it is the Indian bazzars which catch the eye. The sari silks, piles of vegetables on large flat baskets, virulent sweets and mounds of dyes and spices turn the narrow streets into a giant paintbox.

A more sedate and scenic way of reaching Simla, if you have the time, is on the old narrow-gauge railway which threads its way by tunnel, bridge and ratchet from just north of Chandigarh.

From Simla it's another two or three hours by road to Mandi, a meaningful junction town straddling the River Beas, and then on up the Kulu Valley (you can also make for Dalhousie or Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama, via another road).

Kulu means "the end of the inhabitable world" and this is where the adventure really begins. Soft orchards broken with jacaranda, bougainvillea and jasmine are bordered by great craggy forested hills, or parched escarpments ripped bare for firewood. Himachal houses are made of wood surrounded on all sides by two-tier verandahs - the upper enclosed for winter, the lower open to the gentle summers.

In spite of the breeze the temperature climbs. Ice-cream men shove drinks on bent sticks through vehicle windows. Drapers



Just a graze: a Gaddi shepherd and his flock of sheep and goats at summer camp in Himachal Pradesh.

drop off among their bolts. Animals driven endlessly God knows where are allowed to rest.

From Kulu to Manali the mountains become clearer by the mile, divested finally of hill cover. The river quickens, building for a monsoon flood. The guesthouse signs start to outnumber the trees.

Manali is a meeting place. Nepali roadworkers and Tibetan refugees have signified their permanence by building a gumpa (temple), where Buddha takes up two floors in height surrounded by butter lamps

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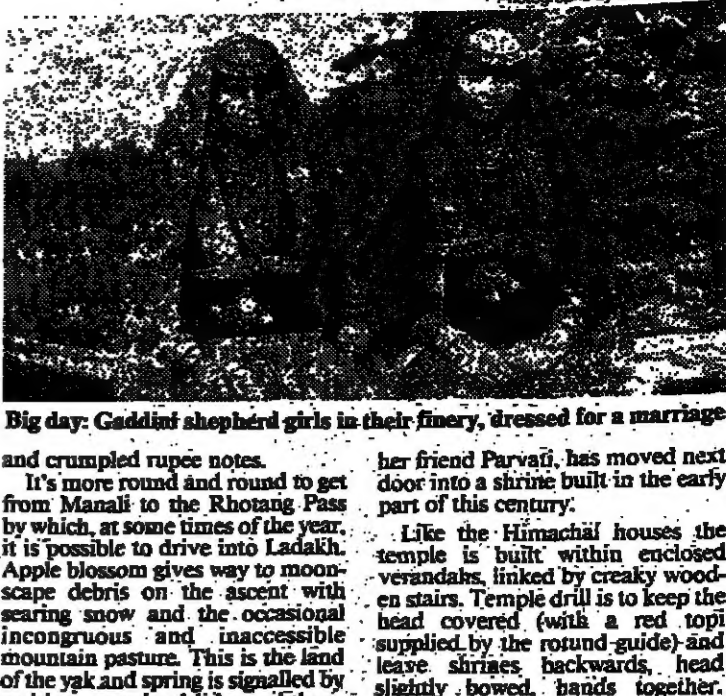
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Himachal houses are made of wood surrounded on all sides by two-tier verandahs - the upper enclosed for winter, the lower open to the gentle summers.

In spite of the breeze the temperature climbs. Ice-cream men shove drinks on bent sticks through vehicle windows. Drapers

drop off among their bolts. Animals driven endlessly God knows where are allowed to rest.

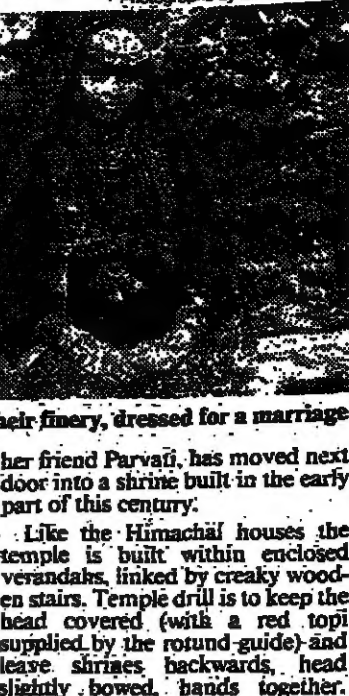
From Kulu to Manali the mountains become clearer by the mile, divested finally of hill cover. The river quickens, building for a monsoon flood. The guesthouse signs start to outnumber the trees.

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Just a graze: a Gaddi shepherd and his flock of sheep and goats at summer camp in Himachal Pradesh.

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SHOPPING

Gadgets for the go-getter

If you took all the available luggage-saving gadgets on holiday you would need a container truck, preferably with its own generator. But some are well worth slipping in to your bags.

One was this week

OUT AND ABOUT

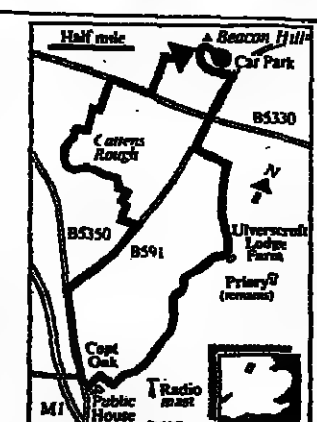
Step ashore for treasure in miniature

WEEKEND WALK

So many country walks are, almost by definition, less than easily accessible unless you are in the locality. On the other hand, who wants to walk next to a motorway? Charnwood Forest is bisected by the M1, but you would hardly know it. Little hills and dales provide interesting walking, with something new being revealed at the end of every field.

When you rise to the top of Beacon Hill (only 248m) the picture changes to a much broader canvas. Loughborough lies below, while the sandstone brook crosses the valley. The Trent betrays the existence of Nottingham. The topography points out much more, including Lincoln 45 miles away. No sign of the motorway, which runs in a cutting, but junctions 22 and 23 are mere minutes away.

From the car park to the north of Beacon Hill climb to take in the view, at its best early in the day. Return through the outcrops of rock to the car park, and then strike off south-west to Ulverscroft.



The radio masts are our next target. At Copt Oak, the picture changes to a much broader canvas. Loughborough lies below, while the sandstone brook crosses the valley. The Trent betrays the existence of Nottingham. The topography points out much more, including Lincoln 45 miles away. No sign of the motorway, which runs in a cutting, but junctions 22 and 23 are mere minutes away.

Iain Liddell

For many years Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour, was a mysterious and forbidden place. Now its ruined villages, lost gardens and natural wonders are open to anyone willing to take a 20-minute boat trip.

It is owned by the National Trust, is 1½ miles long by half-a-mile wide — a country in miniature with heathland, meadow, forest, marshland and two tiny lakes.

Packed into those few acres are red squirrels, Sika deer, numerous peacocks and rabbits galore. Both land and sea birds abound and the island contains one of Britain's largest heronries.

The boat trip from Poole costs £2 return for adults, £1.25 for children and sets you down amid battlements and turrets with Brownsea Castle to the left and the National Trust Information Centre ahead. There is a landing fee of 80p for adults, 40p for children.

You can pick up a nature trail leaflet and dedicated nature lovers can join a daily guided tour of the reserve run by the Dorset Naturalists' Trust. This takes you into a part of the island closed to the general public and allows viewing from two bird hides (shelduck, teal and cormorant abound). The walk also takes you through the ruins of a pleasure garden created in the early 19th century.



Back to nature: Brownsea Island, just a boat trip away

Under their ownership the castle and the island became the setting for some of Edwardian society's most glittering social occasions. And it was during this period that Major-General Robert Baden-Powell

organized the first Scout camp on the island, in 1907.

But in 1927 the island was bought by Mrs Mary Bonham Christie and the party was definitely over. She forbade all visitors and lived the life of a recluse determined "to give the island back to nature".

When Mrs Christie died in 1961 her grandson gave the island to the Treasury to pay estate duty and they gave it to the National Trust.

A short walk from the quay is the church which was built in 1853 and is full of fine carved figures and lamps, screens and peeling brought from all over the world.

Outside the energetic can explore the remains of the daffodil fields or search for the last traces of the village built for pottery workers in an ill-fated attempt to bring industry to the island.

Jacqueline Mair

Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour, Dorset (0202 707744). The Dorset Naturalists' Trust tour starts at 2.45pm every day and costs 70p. Brownsea Castle is not open to the public.

OUTINGS

CHILDREN'S BOOKS: Annual exhibition showing the National Book League's selection of the best of the year's children's books — fiction and non-fiction. National Book League, Book House, 45 East Hill, London SW18 (01-870 9055). Today-Aug 2, Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm. Free.

PUB GAMES AND REAL ALE: Annual event for real ale enthusiasts — 27 different varieties on sale — and those who enjoy silly games like darts, snooker, passing the spool, amber tossing and bat and trap. The Royal Oak, Chichester Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, (0730 814611). Today, 11am-3.30pm; 6-11.30pm. Free.

SIEGFRIED SASSOON CENTENARY: This afternoon, flower show, hot-air balloon rides, shire horses, craft stalls, vintage engines and machinery followed by a dance. Tomorrow, more of the same minus the balloon rides and plus commemorative church service at Matfield, vintage car competition and cricket match. Sassoon's house is open in the afternoon, with open-bus shuttle from Branchley, Memorial Hall and Cricket

Ground, Branchley, Kent. Today, from 2pm. Tomorrow, service at 11.15am, events from 2pm.

WAR GAMES: Men-at-arms war game show at the fortress which dates back to Napoleonic times. Also role-playing and fantasy games. Redoubt Fortress Museum, Eastbourne, East Sussex (0323 21333). Today, tomorrow, 11am-6pm. Adult 70p, child 35p.

BATTLE OF RADCOOT BRIDGE: Re-enactment of the 1645 battle performed by members of the Sealed Knot, plus brass band, morris men, tug-of-war, parachute display, helicopter rides. Radcot, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Further information: Alan Powell (0993 78451). Today, tomorrow, noon-5pm. Adult £2, child £1.

COMMONWEALTH ARTS FESTIVAL: Extensive programme of music, theatrical and fringe events; also talks, exhibitions, dance and other activities. City of Edinburgh, Princes Street Gardens, Assembly Rooms, Art Centre and other venues. Today — Aug 2. For further information telephone 031-225 2424, ext 6632.

Judy Froshaug

THE TIMES COOK

Keep barbecues simple — but don't be scared to use some imagination, says Shona Crawford Poole

Fresh fish for the fresh air

Dore Leadbetter

Simplicity, it seems to me, is the whole point of barbecue cooking. Which is not the same as saying that anything more inventive than a charred sausage is inappropriate. What I do not see the point of is using a charcoal grill to cook foil packets of things.

There are exceptions, of course. The camper in search of breakfast can be forgiven for employing the barbecue as the only means available of satisfying a whim for poached eggs. On holiday there is time for such absurdities. But the idea of using great ingenuity and immaculate organization to construct a four-course meal in the garden seems contrary to the spirit of al fresco cooking.

Fish is the simplest of all foods to barbecue and one of the most successful. Only fish — large and small — are especially successful because they are self-basting and less likely to dry. Rows of tiny silver anchovies marinated for cooking have great appeal.

Fresh sardines, once a novelty, are now widely available and excellent candidates for barbecuing. Fancy grilling racks, square or circular, with sardine-shaped baskets to hold the fish are fun. They are also another gadget to clean and store. Instead, try threading the sardines head to tail on two skewers held about 7cms (2ins) apart.

Gutting and cleaning sardines is optional. Some cooks do, others don't bother. Salt them generously before grilling quickly and serve them with lemon wedges to squeeze over the fish.

Barbecuing is the best possible treatment for very fresh mackerel. Clean them, make several slashes down each side, cutting the flesh about half way down to the bone so that it will cook as evenly as possible. Heat the grilling rack well and, just before cooking the fish, brush it with oil to discourage it from sticking.

Timing will depend on the



heat of the embers and the size of the fish, which should be cooked quickly on a steady high heat. It is cooked when it flakes easily from the bone. Test with a pointed knife inserted into the thickest part of the fish.

Sea bass flavoured with fennel
Serves six
1 sea bass, 1.5kg (3lb) or more
Olive oil to baste
Salt
Bunch of dried fennel twigs
4 tablespoons pastis or Armagnac to flame
1 lemon

Cooking a big fish whole is a special pleasure of barbecuing. Sea bass flavoured with fennel twigs is a classic dish. Sea trout or small salmon can be barbecued and it is one of the better treatments for large farmed trout. The same meth-

od applies to all, but the herbs can be varied. Prunings from a bay tree are one possibility.

The fish should be scaled and cleaned. It will look particularly handsome if, instead of slitting the belly and gutting it in the usual way, it is cleaned through the gills instead. The gill themselves and viscera can be pulled out through the gill flaps.

Rinse the cleaned fish and use a sharp knife to make diagonal slashes along both sides. Cut about half way to the bone to allow the flesh to cook evenly. Brush the fish with olive oil and sprinkle it with salt.

Set the fish on an oiled grill (a special fish-grilling basket reduces the risk of breaking the fish) and cook it for about 20 minutes, turning and basting it frequently with oil. It is cooked when the flesh at the

thickest part is opaque and flakes easily from the bone.

While the fish is grilling arrange a bed of fennel twigs in a large proof dish. Transfer the cooked fish to the dish. Sprinkle the pastis or the Armagnac over the fish and set light to the spirit. If the twigs are laid loosely to allow a good draught, they, too, will burn, adding flavour.

Serve with lemon wedges and a rice pilau flavoured with saffron. Skewers threaded with parboiled new potatoes and fresh bay leaves and finished on the barbecue with a basting of oil or butter are another choice.

Freshness apart, the essential quality of fish for making kebabs or brochettes is that it should have firm flesh that does not easily disintegrate. Monkfish is ideal, as are scallops, and large uncooked prawns in their shells. The oil-

based equivalent of snail butter makes a marinade that will be hard to better.

Monkfish kebabs
Serves four
600 g (1 ½ lb) monkfish fillet
2 cloves garlic
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon lemon juice
4 tablespoons olive oil
4 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Cut the monkfish into large cubes. Crush the garlic and mix it with the salt, lemon juice, oil and all but one tablespoon of the parsley. Stir in the cubed fish and leave it to marinate for about 10 minutes before draining the cubes and threading them on to flat-bladed skewers. Grill them over charcoal, basting once or twice during cooking. Sprinkle with the remaining parsley before serving.

Tim Waters, wine buyer for Oddbins, clearly has a problem: "We know we are specialists, the place to go for port, Armagnac, malt whisky and champagne. Yet we also sell an awful lot of Muscadet and Côtes du Rhône. We aren't the corner off-licence, but in image terms we are stuck between supermarket high-volume, single-bottle buyers and consumers who buy in large volume, but in cases."

Oddbins' original and independent stance has attracted loyal and like-minded customers over the years. Their first branch, at which they billed themselves as "wine merchants extraordinaire", opened in 1963, and soon their rustic, no-frills shops, complete with fairground graphics, single-sheet wine list, wooden bins, cases and baskets of bottles piled high, became a popular High Street site.

Their knowledgeable staff was another extra, again much appreciated by customers who were fed up with the mostly churlish and ill-informed service they received at their local off-licence.

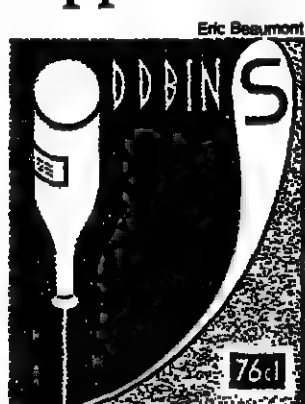
But the UK wine scene changed dramatically in the late 1970s and early '80s with the advent of supermarket wine sales, and the almost amateurish Oddbins approach began to look somewhat outdated. It was inevitable that the company should be snuffed up by a more powerful concern. In May 1984, Seagram's, the giant American wine and spirits conglomerate, did just that.

Although still perhaps in a state of flux, the company's 67 branches appear, so far, to have changed little under Seagram's wing, apart from upping their Seagram-owned brands, such as Mumm champagne and Sandeman sherry and port, from some 18 to 30 lines. Or as Tim Waters puts it: "Being part of Seagram's has not at any time, in my opinion, compromised our principles."

Sadly, Oddbins by Post, their useful mail order service, has disappeared under Seagram's auspices, and another temporary (let us hope) change in the company's *modus operandi* has been the abandonment of their bi-annual list, which gave an invaluable run-down on their wide range of wines and prices.

DRINK

Dilemma of the no frills approach



On the plus side, purchasing power has been much increased recently. Tim Waters now buys not just for Oddbins branches, but also for the Gough (137-odd) and Agnews (70) chains that together make up Seagram Retail.

The great strengths in the Oddbins wine list have come in the past from countries such as Spain and Portugal. But recently both the Italian and Californian sections have expanded considerably. The Italian one, in particular, is now a *real tour de force*, with 64 wines to choose from, and anyone buying 12 bottles of

Italian wine before August 24 will be given a free copy of Nick Belfrage's Italian wine book, *Life Beyond Lambrusco*.

My choice among their Italian whites is Masi's '85 Soave Classico (£2.79), whose positive, leafy-lemony smell and taste is very different from the usual dull, dreary Soaves. Considerably more expensive, but worth it, is Masi's '85 Col Baracca Soave Classico at £4.56. Do splash out on this wine, for its elegant, flowery-green flavour is a revelation.

Of the Italian reds, the '83 Monte Gradella Valpolicella Classico from Santa Sofia makes a seductive, flowery mouthful and is good value at £3.99. But this wine is again eclipsed by Masi's soft, velvety, damson-like '83 Serego Alghieri Valpolicella Classico, priced at £4.69.

Of their two dozen or so Californian wines, a firm favourite is Monticello's Chardonnay, whose '84 vintage with its rich, pineapple style is, for a first-class Californian wine, an excellent buy at £7.69.

With the strawberry season in full swing inexpensive sweet wines to accompany these and other summer fruits are always much in demand. Oddbins have unearthed a ridiculously cheap Bulgarian Mehana sweet white whose unusual clean, spicy-grapey taste is practically given away at just £1.69 a bottle.

Jane MacQuitty

EATING OUT

Things ain't what they used to be

In his restless search for cheaper meals, Jonathan Meades revisits old haunts

Of course there is such a thing as a free lunch. The trick is simply not to acknowledge that for every quid there must be a quo, to fail to submit to the bribery implicit in the very special bottle, to ignore the flattery of the expensive-fuelled smoothie, or the recent *Tatler* style, characterized as the "company wife".

We're talking here about the grown-up world. Before we reach this world — in which who actually pays is a matter of form rather than relative wealth — we trudge through a world where a free meal is what we get from parents or friends' parents and the meal that we habitually seek is the cheap meal.

The topography of this world is no doubt determined by generation. For my lot — I was at Rada at the age of the Sixties — it meant an endless trek between Schmidt's in Charlotte Street and Jimmy's at the southern end of Fifth Street, between the Budapest in Greek Street

and Daquise in South Kensington.

At Schmidt's in 1969 one could eat a massive meal of goulash, fresh noodles and strudel with a bottle of White Shield for 3s 6d. That great Teutonic canteen, the surlyness of whose waiters has resounded into the collective conscious, closed in 1974.

Had it hung on for just three or four more years it would have found itself at the van of modishness: it was, after all, the archetype of the *soi disant* "brasserie", the unwitting precursor of Langan's, where the waiters, despite their boss's example, have still to learn the meaning of real abuse.



The Budapest, which was a couple of shillings more expensive, commensurate with its portions, closed even earlier. It re-opened a year ago as the Old Budapest. At least, a place of that name opened on its site. What cost nine bob 17 years ago — a three-course lunch with beer — now costs £11, near enough: a 24-fold

increase which matches that of a house in, say, Kilburn. But by comparison with most of Soho it is good value: dishes such as pressed boar's head (Formula One brawn), chicken with rice and paprika, preposterously sweet pancakes, are just the thing if you haven't eaten for a couple of days.

The single best dish is one of cabbage stuffed with intensely savoury minced pig, ganged up with sweet pickled cabbage, grilled pork and spicy sausage. The decor is all-purpose Magyar — lots of forest green and stencilling and folk-woven nothingness. Wallet damage, realistically, £33 for two. It never stopped going to Daquise. You can loiter here all day with a coffee. The only "improvement" in all these years has been the installation of a flashier Gaggia machine. It is still run by autochthonous Polish émigrés: it is still full of those of their compatriots who didn't move to Ealing in the 1940s.

It makes no attempt to keep up with indices of the "cost of living". The cheap set lunch is £3, the expensive one £3.50. There is a lovely cold magenta soup called *chłodnik* composed of cream, beetroot, pickled cucumber and ham stock. There are *piezoki*, literally "little pies", that sometimes resemble the world's best ravioli. Last week they were made with crisp pastry. The herring with potatoes, onions and sour cream is sumptuous. Russian *zrazy* is a sort of meat loaf with mushrooms and a heavy-duty gravy poured over it. The cakes (off-sales also) are first rate.

The place is altogether a gent, and I pray that it will never change. Ordering from the carte — there is no menu at night — and drinking Tatra beer, two of us spent £16.50. Service tends to be better natured in the paneled basement than on the ground floor.

The service at Jimmy's is conducted by Cypriot oldsters who look like extras from the garage scene in a *film noir* — T-shirts tucked into pleated trousers and plenty of stubble. The place mirrors their uncannily — plastic wood walls, a ceiling of magnificent pocked decrepitude, yards of ad hoc wiring, ancient strip lights, wobbly fans. The entire basement is stained with nicotine. The atmosphere of old Soho is plastered on impasto. The grub is in the Irishman league of kebab cookery and is only to be broached by the genuinely needy: £14 for two.

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BY POST

Old Budapest, 6 Greek Street, London W1 (437 2006). Open Mon-Sat noon-3pm and 6-11pm.
Daquise, 20 Thurlow Street, London SW7 (589 6117). Open daily 10am-11.30pm.
Jimmy's, 23 Fifth Street, London W1 (437 9521). Open Mon-Sat noon-3pm and 5.30-11pm.

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THE WEEK AHEAD



CONCERTS

PROM PLAY: Sir John Pritchard conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Elgar's Violin Concerto, with soloist Ida Haendel, and Bruckner's Symphony No 4 for the twelfth Promenade Concert of the season. Albert Hall, Wednesday 7.30pm.



FILMS

PAW LORE: Fay Wray screams beautifully as the girl in the clutches of the world's most famous monster as the 1933 horror classic *King Kong* (PG) returns in a new print struck from the original negative. Cannon Premiere (01-439 4470). From Friday.



DANCE

CRIMEAN WAR: Yuri Grigorovich is the choreographer of *The Golden Age*, the third production of the Bolshoi Ballet's London season. Set in the Crimea in the 1920s, it is the story of a woman's rivalry for a café dancer. Royal Opera House (01-240 1911). From Wednesday.



BOOKS

REDBRICK BLUES: Barbara Pym wrote *An Academic Question* (Macmillan, £9.95) in the early 1970s but it was left unpublished at her death. Set in a West Country university, it portrays a characteristic Pym world of self-absorbed academics and elderly eccentrics.



THEATRE

GUN LAW: Suzi Quatro plays the hillbilly heroine of Irving Berlin's song-filled musical *Annie Get Your Gun* which comes into the West End after a successful launch at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Aldwych (01-836 6404). Opens Tuesday after previews.



TELEVISION

SHOPPING LISZT: Franz Liszt died 100 years ago on July 31. To mark the centenary BBC2 is putting on a week of programmes from today, including two recitals by Alfred Brendel and a live relay from Bayreuth of the Faust Symphony and Piano Concerto No 2.

TIMES CHOICE

FILMS

OPENINGS

COBRA (18): Sylvester Stallone as a Los Angeles cop in a violent thriller. Warner West End (01-439 0791), Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). From Fri.

DESERT HEARTS (18): A discreet, splendidly acted story of lesbian friendships. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366), Electric Screen (01-229 3894), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148). From Fri.

SELECTED

SID AND NANCY (18): Alex Cox's subdued elegy to punk rock. Lumiere (01-836 0881), Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220).

HANNAH AND HER SISTERS (15): Woody Allen's assured comedy-drama, chronicling the lives and loves of Hannah, her sisters, and various partners. Odeon Leicester Square (01-830 8111).

HALF LIFE (PG): Quiet but powerful documentary about the effects of America's nuclear tests on the Marshall Islands during the 1950s. Metro 1 (01-437 0757).

CONCERTS

BOUGHTON/LSO: William Boughton conducts the LSO in Wagner's *Meistersinger* Overture and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5 while Alexander Michlew solos in Dvorak's Cello Concerto. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Today, 7.45pm.

SUMMERSCOPE STARTS: The South Bank's summer festival begins with Phyllis Bryn-Julson singing melodies by Debussy, songs by Ives, Lieder by Alban Berg. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Today, 7.45pm.

THE WINNER: Barry Douglas, recent winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, solos in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2. The RPO under Enrique Batiz also plays Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italian*, Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite No 1. Barbican Centre, Mon, 7.45pm.

OPENINGS

THE COCKTAIL PARTY: Alec McCowen, Sheila Gish, Simon Ward in a new production of T.S. Eliot's play, described as "a drawing room comedy with a serious moral tone". Phoenix (01-836 2294). Previews today (matinee and evening). Opens Mon.

THE ENTERTAINER: Peter Dinklage's Olivier's shoes as the seedy, emotionally empty stand-up comic Archie Rice. Shaftesbury (01-379 5399). DVBKUK: An emotionally rich and sometimes unnerving adaptation of Anski's story of demonic possession. With Bruce Myers and Josianne Stoleru. Almeida (01-369 4404).

OPERA

BUXTON FESTIVAL: Alan Bates speaks Dryden's words in the festival's Arthurian highlight, Purcell's *King Arthur*, which plays tonight, Wed and Fri at 7.45pm. On Thurs, also at 7.45pm; Handel's *Artaxerxes* has its first night. Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire (0298 71010).

SOUTH BANK OPERA: A new production of *Così fan tutti* by Opera Factory's controversial director David Freeman opens the South Bank's first opera season in a preview performance on Fri at 7pm. Paul Daniel conducts the London Sinfonietta in a performance to be sung in a new English translation by Anne Ridler. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT: Jack Lemmon makes his London stage debut in Eugene O'Neill's classic. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (01-930 9832). Previews from Thurs. Opens Aug 4.

WONDERFUL TOWN: Maureen Lipman, Ray Lomax, in the Watford Palace production of Leonard Bernstein's musical. Queen's (01-734 1166/0261/0120). Previews today, Mon-Fri, Aug 2-4. Opens Aug 7.

OPENINGS

THE COCKTAIL PARTY: Alec McCowen, Sheila Gish, Simon Ward in a new production of T.S. Eliot's play, described as "a drawing room comedy with a serious moral tone". Phoenix (01-836 2294). Previews today (matinee and evening). Opens Mon.

THE ENTERTAINER: Peter Dinklage's Olivier's shoes as the seedy, emotionally empty stand-up comic Archie Rice. Shaftesbury (01-379 5399). DVBKUK: An emotionally rich and sometimes unnerving adaptation of Anski's story of demonic possession. With Bruce Myers and Josianne Stoleru. Almeida (01-369 4404).

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OUT OF TOWN

GLASGOW: A Wee Touch of Class: Rikki Fulton in the successful adaptation of Molière's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* by himself and Denise Coffey. King's (031 229 1201). Opens Mon.

LEICESTER: The Canterbury Tales: Adaptation of Chaucer by Phil Woods and Michael Bogdanov, billed as "a boisterous romp". Haymarket (0533 539797).

DANCE

LONDON FESTIVAL: Two more performances today at the Coliseum with a programme of Paul Taylor's *Aureole*, Roland Petit's *Carman* and Harald Lander's *Etudes*. The company transfers Mon to the Festival Hall where the first week's bill is *Giselle*. Coliseum (01-836 3161). Festival Hall (01-928 3191).

BOLSHOI BALLET: Further performances of *Ivan the Terrible* (today and Mon), *Raymonda* (Tues, Fri). Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

BOLSHOI BALLET FILMS: *The Little Humpbacked Horse* (3pm) and *Ivan the Terrible* (7pm) start a season lasting until Aug 14. Barbican (01-628 8795).

MUNA TSENG: Water Trilogy (today, tomorrow). Riverside (01-748 3354).

ROCK AND JAZZ

ANITA BAKER: The soul singer's new favourite. Tonight and tomorrow. Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

LOUNGE LIZARDS: A "fake-jazz" band who play almost as convincingly as they pose. Tonight to Wed, ICA, London SW1 (01-930 3647).

ARTURO SANDOVAL: Cuban trumpet virtuoso. To Aug 9, Ronnie Scott's, London W1 (01-498 0747).

TANIA MARIA: Flery singer from Brazil. Tomorrow, Shaw Theatre, London NW1 (01-389 1394).

KATE & ANNA McGARFAGLE: The folk scene's Every Sisters. Wed/Thurs, Mean Fiddler, London NW10 (01-861 5480).

BO DIDDLEY: Grandest old man of rhythm and blues. Fri, Brixton Academy, London SW11 (01-328 1022).

GALLERIES

BRITISH WATERCOLOURS: Open exhibition of contemporary watercolours. Riverside Gallery, 48 Hoxton St, Blackfriars, London SE1 (01-928 7521). From Fri.

FRENCH PAINTING: An exhibition tracing the development of French landscape painting in the years leading to the first Impressionist show. National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 (031-556 8921). From Fri.

ARTISTS ABOARD: Paintings, drawings and prints. The Upstairs Gallery, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 7763). From Mon.

ARCHAEOLOGY: Major show reviewing archaeological discoveries made in Britain since the war. British Museum, Great Russell St, London WC1 (01-636 1555).

ACQUISITIONS: Display of paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures of 20th-century personages. National Portrait Gallery, London WC2 (01-930 1552).

PHOTOGRAPHY

LIFE AND LANDSCAPE: Life in rural East Anglia by P.H. Emerson, a typical Victorian with wide-ranging interests. Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 55561).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

SADLERS WELLS BALLET: Booking open for season at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01 240 1066/1911).

LAST CHANCE

SCULPTURE IN BRITAIN BETWEEN THE WARS: Includes works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Epstein, Eric Gill. Ends Friday. Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 5116).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Dance: John Percival; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

An unromantic boon for Mills



Sir John Mills makes his debut at the National exploring the ups and downs of a complex marriage

The word retirement sends a shiver along the toothbrush of Sir John Mills's moustache. Looking at a pleasure boat passing downstream from the National, he cries the case of his chum Bob Hope who, when sent by his doctor on a cruise, returned prematurely with the words "Fish don't applaud".

Last weekend, while rehearsing at home with Rosemary Harris for Brian Clark's new play *The Petition* — "that's the marvellous thing about a two-hander, it just needs the two of you — another 'great chum', Rex Harrison, came to lunch. Over the meal, Sir John's wife, Mary, observed they must be the two oldest actors in captivity.

At the age of 78, but refusing to think himself over 30, Sir John has come to the National for the first time. "It's weird that here I am at last. I've done practically everything except circus and opera. I suppose I wasn't asked before because Larry felt I was a film star."

It makes for his greatest regret. If he had his time again he would definitely have returned to the Old Vic in 1940-41 when Tyrone Guthrie had planned for him a session playing Hamlet. Hotsprings and Richard III. But the war — "in which I didn't get a VC but an ulcer" — put paid to this. "My life might have been totally different. I might have become a major classical actor — or a resounding flop."

Sir John casts his innocent blue eyes down the Thames and fiddles with a digestive biscuit. A self-confessed "carpet-slipper" man he wears brown brogues, red socks and a pocket kerchief in his check suit jacket. "This is the toughest, most difficult part I've ever played", he says of his role as the General in *The Petition*. "Something like the village idiot in *Ryan's Daughter* (for which he won an Oscar). I spent two months watching films of chaps with brain damage and the rest was a piece of cake."

The Petition is also his first two-hander. "Rosemary and I are on that stage for an hour and three-quarters, without a second off. It's an absolute marathon, demanding total concentration. I'm always dying for a butler to come on and say 'Would you like a drink?'"

His first night will be as queasy as ever. "First nights ought to be avoided", he says grimly. He has turned down two parts before because of them. "Cinema reviews of work you have done six months back don't matter so much. On stage, if you have been called a bewildered carrot, you have to go out the following night as a bewildered carrot."

The danger time, however, is after about six months. He tells of one famous time he dried up. "There was this long dinner scene in *Figure of Fun*. I was chatting away and in the middle I blew sky high. I didn't know if I was in Birmingham or playing Hamlet. The cast stopped chewing and looked at me. I looked at the prompter, but there was no one there. So I went off stage, checked the lines and returned. Two chums in the audience even thought it had been deliberate."

To ward off such bad luck, Sir John does not whistle in the dressing room and wears a piece of eight around his neck. "It's from a galleon", he says, undoing his shirt and producing the squashed gold circle. "You'll be frightfully lucky now you've touched it. I wear it whenever I do a show. Mary put it on this chain because I was always about to give it to taxi-drivers."

two people celebrating a complex 50-year marriage through all its ups and downs and outs. Does it resemble Sir John's own celebrated marriage? "Not an atom", he says, "though we have survived for about the same time."

He first met Mary in 1929 at the start of his acting career (for which he had forsaken a job selling Sanitas toilet paper). He was touring the Far East with a company called The Quaints and she was the red-haired daughter of Tinsin's Commissioner of Chinese Maritime Customs.

The tour also brought Sir John another piece of luck. Passing the Theatre Royal, Singapore, in a rickshaw, Noel Coward saw the billboard announcing The Quaints in Hamlet. What this meant he did not know, but he had to see. "If I hadn't met Noel, it would have taken me another 10 years to get to the West End. It was difficult to get through those swing doors even playing a butler. Noel gave me the short-cut."

It was the start of their lifetime friendship. Through Coward, Mills secured an audition with Cochran for his 1931 Revue, and later, parts written by Coward specially for him: Joe Marryott in *Cavalcade* and Shorty Blake in the film *In Which We Serve*.

Curiously, for a man who has made more than 100 films — "and been up and down the ranks like a tea-totum" — Sir John is often cast in the public eye as stiffly upper-lipped. "I hate that phrase", he snickers. It belies his versatility. Who now remembers how a love scene with Sylvia Sims — in *Ice Cold in Alex* — was so hot it was snipped by the censor? Despite these films, "I still think of myself as a theatre-player". And the theatre, he believes, raising his eyes again to the river, has an even bigger grip on the public than before.

Nicholas Shakespeare
The *Petition* opens at the Lyttelton (01-928 2033) on Wed.

ARTS DIARY

Universal appeal

Well on his way to raising his personal goal of £2 million in aid of the Mexican earthquake victims, Plácido Domingo has taken time off to create another record. Not the plastic kind with a hole in the middle, but record audiences — in only two concerts he has sung to 1.3 million people. Domingo entertained 800,000 Americans at the Liberty Concert in New York, then flew to Tel Aviv where he performed in front of an audience of 500,000 — massive by rock concert standards, let alone opera. Neither event will directly raise money, for Domingo's Mexican appeal, but with concerts in 10 cities across the globe already under his belt and with several more to come — including one in London at Christmas — I am told he will easily exceed his target.

Knight errant

And now for something completely indifferent. Terry Jones, of *Monty Python* fame, will turn up at the Chaucer Festival in Canterbury next week pointing out that Chaucer's "gentil knight" was "no such thing". "People have the impression that he was the acme of chivalry", says Jones. "But if you look at the catalogue of battles and skirmishes he was involved in, the only conclusion to draw is that he was a mercenary. As such his manners were likely to be indifferent and Chaucer's portrait had to be an ironic one." Jones has just directed a film of which the bard would have approved. Called *Personal Services*, it is loosely based on the life of Streatham brothel-keeper Cynthia Payne.

Developing her own particular brand of loyalty

forthcoming book, *Crowned in a Far Country*, is to be published in October. But how to be sure that the shops stock it and the publishers' reps like it? Answer: invite them all round to Kensington Palace and give them a slap-up lunch.

Rudi-mentary

Rudolf Nureyev has been called many things in his time but never kind. At the Paris Opera, where he is director, he has thumped dance teacher Michel Renaut and slapped dancer Jean-Christophe Paré and choreographer Roland Petit. But according to Lynn Seymour, in a new evaluation of Nureyev in next month's *Harpers & Queen*, Rudi, now 48, has come to others' rescue more than once. "Just when you think the end has come, there will be a call from Rudolf", she says devotedly.

Off beat

Visitors to the Cambridge Festival should beware the Clouseau-like progress of the Takacs Quartet, who will be playing there tonight. At an earlier performance this year, one player lost his luggage and had to perform in a dinner jacket and shoes four sizes too big. Prior to another performance, the cellist crashed his BMW into a multi-storey car park and the second violin had his car impounded by police for being unroadworthy. The highlight of one engagement was the sight of a player scuttling off in the middle of a Haydn quartet to find the rest of his music.

Christopher Wilson

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 25: Mr. J. Adams (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Tunis) and Mrs. Adams had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Anthony Acland was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Washington.

Her Majesty invested Sir Anthony Acland with the insignia of Knight of the Order of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

The Queen held a Council at 12.40 pm.

There were present the Viscount Whitelaw (Lord President), the Lord Denham (Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms), the Baroness Young (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), the Right Hon Norman Fowler, MP (Secretary of State for Social Services) and the Right Hon Dr Kenneth Simmonds (Prime Minister of St Christopher and Nevis).

The Right Hon Dr Kenneth Simmonds, having been previously appointed a Privy Councillor, was sworn in as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Geoffrey de Grey was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Viscount Whitelaw had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

Mr Christopher Olivine had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen this afternoon attended the Test Match between England and New Zealand at Lord's Cricket Ground and met members of the Teams.

Her Majesty was received by the President of the MCC (Mr J. G. Davies).

Lord Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes and Major Hugh Lindsay were in attendance.

The Queen attended by Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Kenneth Scott and Major Hugh Lindsay, left Epsom Station in the Royal Train this evening for Scotland.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited Caithness, Scotland today.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight and was received upon arrival at Wick Airport by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Caithness (the Viscount Thurso).

Squadron Leader Timothy

COURT AND SOCIAL

Finneron and Major Rowan Jackson, RM were in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this morning reviewed the 25th Anniversary Ceremonial Parade at Ryton Police Training Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Warwickshire (Mr Charles Smith-Ryland) and the Commandant of the Centre (Mr R. Dyke).

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of the Governor-General of Canada and the Governor-General of Australia and Lady Stephen and bade farewell to their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

By command of The Queen, the Baroness Hooper (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Gatwick Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of the Governor-General of Tuvalu and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 25: The Prince and Princess of Wales continued to visit the Shetland Isles this morning.

His Royal Highness visited the Royal Naval School, Stromness, Scalloway and Her Royal Highness visited the Church of Scotland, Eventide Home, Scalloway.

Afterwards The Prince and Princess of Wales visited Aith where Her Royal Highness named a new RNLI Lifeboat "Snoida".

The Prince and Princess of Wales later left Scalloway Airport in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight for London.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Anderson were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today opened the new extension to the MFI National Distribution Centre at Brackmills Industrial Estate, Northampton.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire (Mr John Lowther).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Elizabeth Blair.

The Queen will open a new home for the Civil Service Benevolent Fund in Dunbar, East Lothian, on July 30.

Ritchie, presided, assisted by the Wardens, Mr F.C. Minoprio, who also spoke, Mr Alan Burroughs and Mr T.W. Telford. The Masters of the Vintners and Grocers' Companies and the Prime Warden of the Baskettmakers' Company were among others present.

Reception The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio was the guest of honour at a reception given by the Right Rev Lord Caccia, Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews at the Sternberg Centre for Judaism yesterday. Sir Sigmund Sternberg received the guests and Rabbi Tony Bayfield, director of the centre, also spoke.

Distillers' Company The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Christopher Collet, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon given by the Distillers' Company at Vintners' Hall yesterday. The Master of the Distillers' Company, Mr T.N.

Luncheons Anglo-American Society. Lord Caccia, President of the Anglo-American Society, and Sir William Clark, MP, gave a luncheon at the House of Commons yesterday in honour of Mr Robert J. O'Neill, HM Ambassador designate to Vienna, and Mrs O'Neill. The Austrian Ambassador, Sir John G. Thomas was among those present.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

DEATHS BRECKENELL. On July 25th, 1986, Peter aged 43 of Hertford, Funeral at 11.30 am at St. Peter's Church, Hertford. Enquiries to 01-422 8853 (after 10.30 am), or send to: Friends, St. Peter's, Hertford.

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James Tolhurst

Sin as a personal tragedy

"An unfinished creature in an unfinished world" was Bishop F. R. Barry's verdict on mankind. But the statement, which may intrigue the psychologist, hardly satisfies anyone involved with the unfinished creature itself, at ground level. There is no doubt that all is not well but what is the nature of the defect?

Much of modern theology has been arguing over the exact determination of Paul's epistle to the Romans, concluding that it is a question of our solidarity in sin rather than the origin of sin in Adam. We live out our lives in this sinful environment unless we are gathered into the grace-environment of Jesus Christ.

But although it goes some way to explain the situation it still does not answer the stubborn question which underlies that state of affairs. Are we fated to be sinners, caught up in the mystery of iniquity?

Augustine posed the question to himself in the *Confessions* and said of the Manichees that "they preferred rather to hold that your substance (ie, God's) suffered evil than that their own substance committed it."

Traditionally, the formulae speak of "man very far gone from original righteousness" (Article IX) and "the whole man, body and soul, changed for the worse" (Council of Trent). The argument has turned not on the origin of the sin which "naturally" is ingendered of the offspring of Adam" but on the ensuing corruption incurred.

It is interesting that the recent *Dialogue on Mission*, which chronicles discussion between Evangelical and

Roman Catholic theologians between 1977 and 1984, insists that the Evangelicals original sin has distorted every part of human nature, "consequently the Apostle Paul describes all people as 'enslaved', 'blind', 'dead' and 'under God's wrath'."

Trent's decree on Justification "confesses that all men, having lost innocence through the sin of Adam 'became unclean', and according to the apostle, were 'by nature children of wrath'. So completely were they the slaves of sin and under the power of the devil and of death."

Such an apparently pessimistic assessment goes much further to explain the apparently mindless tragedies that in retrospect are so often explained by the telling phrase "I don't know what came over me". At a deeper level, severely disturbed criminals will admit that they are "all bad".

Evangelicals would say this affirms the total depravity of human nature after the Fall whereby man is "inclined to evil". But it would seem that if we are to accept such a fundamental corruption, then it would seem logical to demand a melt-down effect to the very fabric of the cosmos also.

The late Francis Schaeffer did, in fact, argue that the earth itself was abnormal since it had been cursed by God as a result of Adam's sin and that it remained "subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope" (Genesis in Space and Time, 1972).

But this would surely contradict the whole concept of sin as being a moral defect which cannot transfer to those elements of creation which of their nature are incapable of moral transgression. In fact, the environment would appear to have an inherent capacity to regenerate after the most serious catastrophes, which has proved very beneficial to research chemists.

It would be unscientific to talk of total depravity down to the microbiological level, and we therefore to abandon the concept of an "infection of nature (which) does remain"? Surely it should be possible to analyse the nature of sin, viewed as a psychological phenomenon?

There are essentially only two reactions possible for matter. It can either respond to what is good, or react in horror to what it perceives as evil. It is this response which characterizes our humanity. But instead of talking in terms of the weight of corruption, we should look at the impact which such choice occasions. There is a knock-on effect from sin because all matter is created good and being forced to choose evil, must react in its own make-up the wound of its choice as surely as we bear the physical scars of the damage we do to ourselves.

It is this inherent scarring which must surely explain both the capacity for good in humanity and also the apparently irrational quest for self-destruction, "the apples falling like great drops of dew to bruise themselves".

We can never bid farewell to the old self or to the conflict which St Paul so brilliantly analysed because for him sin was not a statistic, or some general malaise but a personal tragedy. "For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

The Rev Dr James Tolhurst is Roman Catholic Parish Priest of St Joseph's, St Mary Cray, Kent.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Peter Carey, 63; Mr Vivas Gerulatis, 52; The Right Rev W. P. Gilpin, 84; Mr Mick Jagger, 48; Miss Barbara Jefford, 56; Dr John Kilgour, 62; Mr Stanley Kubrick, 58; Mr Richard Miller, 82; Mr Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, 56; Sir Derek Riches, 74; Miss Bernice Rubens, 58; Professor Sir John Stalworthy, 80; Lord Thorpey, 77; Mr M. H. W. Wells, 59.

TOMORROW: Mr Peter Coker, 60; Mr Christopher Dean, 28; Sir Ronald Dearing, 56; Miss Jo Durr, 62; Dame Mary Green, 73; Mr Jack Higgins, 57; Lord Jenkins of Putney, 78; Lord Mancroft, 72; Sir James Munn, 66; Sir Denis Rickman, 79; Mrs Shirley Williams, 56.

Trinity College of Music

The Board of Trinity College of Music, London, announces the following honorary awards:

DEATHS M. S. Hagg and Miss L. C. Graham. The engagement is announced between Mr Harold Gordon, of Arvida, Canada, and of Mrs Catherine Gordon, of Great Finborough, Suffolk, and Deborah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.R.W. Ewen, of Bacton, Norfolk.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Burchell and Miss S. L. Dyson. The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs H.W. Burchell, of Harpenden, and Edwina, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs E.M. Dyson.

Mr R. E. Eveleigh and Miss L. V. Robson. The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Eveleigh, of Chelmsford, Essex, and Valerie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Robson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland.

Mr R.M. Fiddian and Miss D.J. Ewen. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr W.E.H. Fiddian, of Colchester, Cambridgeshire, and of Mrs V.A. Fiddian, of Great Finborough, Suffolk, and Deborah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.R.W. Ewen, of Bacton, Norfolk.

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SATURDAY JULY 26 1986

Kenneth Fleet
Executive Editor

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1263.7 (-0.5)
FT-SE 100
1545.8 (-1.9)
Bargains
22836
USM (Detstream)
122.59 (-0.34)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.4810 (-0.0115)
W German mark
3.1827 (-0.0045)
Trade-weighted
73.0 (+0.2)

Ensign bid
for Berry

Ensign Trust, the restructured Murray Growth Trust, which is 80 per cent owned by Merchant Navy Officers Pension Investments, yesterday offered £86 million for Berry Trust — part of the GT Management stable with 11.7 per cent of GT.

Berry immediately called the bid unwelcome. Mr Bertie Boyd, joint managing director of GT, said Ensign was trying to pick up Berry cheap. He added that Berry had one of the most outstanding records of investment trusts in the last 10 years and also over the last 12 months. Berry's many small shareholders sitting on large capital gains would be disadvantaged by Ensign's bid.

Mr Philip Henderson, investment manager of Ensign, said Berry Trust's performance, after stripping out its GT investment which had been exemplary, was not all that good. In the recent GT flotation Berry reduced its stake from 28.2 per cent.

Gas date

Dealings in the shares of the privatized gas industry are expected to start in late November, Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Minister, said yesterday.

£400m issue

The Bank of England is issuing, by tender, a further £400 million tranche of 2½ per cent, index-linked, Treasury stock, 2016, payable 40 per cent on tender and the balance on September 8.

City purchase

Five Oaks Investments, the property company, has bought Pountney Hill House in the City of London for over £5 million from Richard Ellis, the firm of agents acting for the receiver for Miller Buckley Developments. There is consent for a 23,596 sq ft development on the site near Cannon Street.

Preedy down

Alfred Preedy & Sons, the Midlands newsagent chain, suffered a sharp fall in pretax profits from £1.01 million to £383,000 in the year to March, on turnover up from £107.4 million to £113.6 million. The final dividend was left at 2.875p to make an unchanged annual total of 3.875p.

Travel Trust

Our report (July 15) about the Travel Trust and Virgin Atlantic litigation said that the action had been stayed because of Travel Trust's failure to provide security for costs. In fact, though the security ordered by the court, due on June 12, was paid on June 24, Virgin Atlantic was not told of this until July 15. The stay was not lifted until July 23 and the action is not yet set down for trial.

Grand Met to buy
Ruddles for £14m

By Cliff Feltham

Ruddles, the country's best known brewers of real ale, is selling out to the Watney conglomerate Grand Metropolitan for £14.2 million.

The deal — which was immediately condemned by the Campaign for Real Ale — is being backed by the Ruddles family and holders of 54 per cent of the shares.

Grand Metropolitan, which has been selling Ruddles beers throughout its pubs in London and East Anglia, says that brewing will carry on at the Ruddles brewery at Loughborough in Leicestershire, home of the business since 1858, and will be managed as a free-standing subsidiary within its brewing and retailing division.

On the stock market, Ruddles shares jumped more than £1 to 290p, just below the £3 a share terms being offered by Grand Metropolitan.

Ruddles, which made its reputation through sales of its County draught beer, sold its



Tony Ruddell: "Good news for connoisseurs"

chain of 38 pubs in 1977 to concentrate on selling into other brewers' pubs, such as Grand Metropolitan, and to supermarkets and off-licences, where its profit margins have been squeezed by heavy discounting.

Mr Tony Ruddell, 50, the chairman and grandson of George Ruddell who took over the business soon after it was

set up, said that the takeover would enable it to promote its beers into pubs throughout the country by taking advantage of Grand Metropolitan's nationwide distribution network.

He said: "I think this is good news for real ale connoisseurs who can be assured that the quality will be maintained and our beers will be available to a much greater audience. When you are drinking a good pint it does not matter whether ownership is in the hands of a few people or a large group."

A Grand Metropolitan spokesman said: "We have been selling Ruddles beers in 500 pubs in the South-east and another 250 in East Anglia. The future belongs to strong brand names, and Ruddles is the best."

But Camra said it deplored the takeover. It said: "Grand Metropolitan might claim they will protect the name of Ruddles, but that does not mean they will be committed to keeping the brewery going

or endeavour to maintain and improve the quality of the beers."

Mr Ian Andrews of the stockbrokers Buckmaster and Moore, welcomed the get-together. "The two companies have had strong trading links and the deal should be good for sales of Ruddles beers."

Ruddles, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market four years ago, has been making profits of about £1 million a year.

In the past few months Ruddles has been spending on a specialized television campaign in the Anglia region to promote sales of its beers.

During the early part of the century the brewery was one of 47 then in existence in Rutland and neighbouring Leicestershire catering for the local farmers.

After the First World War it followed the trend towards public house ownership, gradually acquiring an estate before selling these in the 1970s.

Interim dividend cut by
50 per cent at Britoil

By Teresa Poole

Britoil, one of the financially strongest independent oil companies, yesterday halved its interim dividend. It gave warning that if the oil price remained at the present level it would make no profits in the second half of 1986.

The shares fell 26p to a record low of 110p after the announcement that net profits in the first six months had fallen from £91.4 million to £34.5 million.

Britoil's crude oil production in the first half increased slightly to 33 million barrels but the fall in turnover from £968 million to £364 million reflected an average price of £11.53 per barrel, compared with £22.71 in the first half of this year. The oil price has fallen from \$28 to below \$10 a barrel.

Mr Bob Speir, the finance

director, said the company had to accept the possibility that the oil price would not recover. He added that a decision concerning paying a final dividend would not be made until the full year results were known.

Yesterday, oil traders reported an extremely quiet market with both buyers and sellers holding back for next week's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. One cargo of Brent, for delivery in September, changed hands at \$9.47 a barrel.

If the Opec meeting adjourns without any agreement on production quotas, the market expects to see a fall of up to \$2 a barrel.

Mr Rikman Lukman, Opec president and Nigerian oil minister, said yesterday that quotas would have to be agreed

before Opec production — now running at more than 19.5 million barrels a day — could be reduced. He was optimistic that agreement would be reached.

At the June Opec meeting, a majority of ministers agreed to a 17.6 million barrel ceiling and were given proposed quotas to consider by next week's gathering.

Dr Subroto, Indonesia's oil minister, who drew up the proposed quotas, said yesterday that Opec was unlikely to split up but that difficulties remained in reaching agreement.

Dr Mansa Saeed al-Oteibi, the United Arab Emirates oil minister, said the organization faced an impossible mission on Monday and the conference would be the hardest since Opec's inception.

Tempra, page 18

Profits up
sharply
at Lloyds

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank yesterday began the clearing bank interim reporting season by announcing a sharp profit increase over the last six months, almost exactly matching the forecast made by the bank a month ago as part of its aggressive bid for Standard Chartered Bank. The results show a surge in profits from the bank's domestic UK operations while overseas banking operations required a lower level of loan loss provisions than last year.

Lloyds produced a pretax profit of £333 million compared with £254 million at the same time last year. The bank had forecast a profit of £333 million a month ago. But because of a lower tax charge post-tax profits moved ahead even faster, to £214 million, an increase of 52 per cent. Domestic UK operations moved ahead by 32 per cent to £136 million. The interim dividend has been increased by 1.25p, from 5p to 6.25p.

Mr Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said, "compared with the corresponding period of 1985, we achieved a substantial increase in earnings per share and improved our return on both equity and assets." He added that the results showed the bank's emphasis on profitability rather than balance sheet size. The bank's assets hardly grew during the period.

Net interest income moved ahead 6 per cent to £49 million, but non-interest income, such as credit cards, estate agency, insurance broking and merchant banking operations, jumped by 15 per cent to £46 million. At the same time the merger of Lloyds Bank International into the main bank helped to contain costs to an increase of 6 per cent.

Provisions for bad debts fell from £126 million last year to £111 million this time while the bank's tax charge dropped from 47 per cent to 36 per cent. The lower tax rate was due partly to falling corporation tax rates and was helped by a greater reliance on special provisions for bad debts which receive favourable tax treatment unlike general provisions.

The company has plans to improve services and increase revenue on its Hong Kong trans and the famous Star Ferry service. The proposed relocation of the tram depot to two new depots at either end of the system has been approved by the government in principle, thereby leaving the Wan Chai site free for a planned HK\$750 million development.

The company plans to pay a final dividend of 23 HK cents, making a total dividend of 31.5 HK cents per share for the full year, an increase of 50 per cent.

New finance chief
for Standard

By Our Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered has moved fast in appointing a new finance director with the announcement yesterday that Mr Richard Stein, currently the finance director of BOC, would be joining the Standard board in late September.

Mr Stein will be replacing Mr Stuart Tarrant, who resigned as finance director on Monday. There was speculation that Mr Tarrant had supported the Lloyds Bank bid for Chartered and found his position at the bank untenable when the bid failed.

Mr Michael McWilliam, chief executive of Standard, said: "BOC have been very accommodating in letting Mr Stein go so quickly. It seemed to me we should move fast on

the appointment of such an important post at this particular time."

Mr Stein, who is 51, is a chartered accountant and engineer who began his career in the corporate finance department of Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, in the 1960s. From there he moved first to Reckitt & Colman and in 1975 to BOC. He has been chief finance director of BOC since 1980.

He will join Standard as a full board director. Mr McWilliam said that he was well qualified for the job because he is in charge of both the computer and finance areas of BOC which are the same areas of responsibility he will have at Standard.

NMC in £8m takeover

By Our City Staff

NMC Investments, the fibre board containers and investment holding group, yesterday announced its first major purchase since the Seacraft brothers, Charles and Maurice, took their 30 per cent stake earlier this year.

It is paying a maximum of £8 million for Interpoly, a manufacturer of specialized polyethylene bags and sleeves, which last year made pretax profits of £451,000 on a £3.8 million turnover.

The deal is being financed

by a vendor-placing of £7 million NMC shares to institutions at £1 a share against the market price of 117p before yesterday's announcement. Shareholders in Interpoly are taking a further 1 million shares. NMC's share price closed 6p up yesterday at 123p.

At the same time, NMC announced its results for the year to March 31, showing pretax profits of £167,000, against a loss of £183,000 last time.

£15m retail
scheme
for PHIT

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Property Holding and Investment Trust, the subject of a hostile £108 million takeover bid from Greycoat Group, the rival property company, is to develop a £15 million, 27.5 acre retail park near Leamington Spa in Warwickshire significantly adding to the 20 per cent of retail property held in its portfolio.

PHIT has been negotiating for the £8.5 million purchase from a local charity for some time but the announcement of the scheme comes at an opportune moment for the company, which is keen to convince the market that it is an active developer.

Greycoat in its offer to shareholders accused PHIT of being too reliant for growth on buying investment, rather than development properties, often let on long leases. PHIT says it is continuing to widen the portfolio.

The company is telling shareholders to reject the Greycoat bid. Its defence document is likely to appear early next week. The company can probably count on support for 30 per cent of its shareholding.

AE says £174m bid
'totally inadequate'

By Lawrence Lever

The unwelcome £174.1 million bid for AE, the high technology engineers, from Turner & Newall, the mining, engineering and automotive group, was condemned as misconceived and totally inadequate by Sir John Collyear, AE's chairman, yesterday.

AE's defence document, released yesterday, points to the discrepancy between AE's share price and the value of Turner & Newall's bid, and describes the bid as having no industrial logic.

Sir John says in his letter to shareholders contained in the defence document, that the bid "represents an attempt by Turner & Newall to alleviate the many problems posed by its dependence on asbestos by buying a successful but unrelated business". The defence does not contain a profit forecast.

Other changes in the law will allow societies to convert themselves to limited companies, subject to the approval of their members, and to raise up to 20 per cent of their funds on the international capital markets.

The building societies, both individually and through the medium of the BSA, have been pressing for a change in the law for more than five years.

Societies gain freedoms

By Martin Baker

Building societies have been granted important new financial freedoms in the Building Societies Act which yesterday received royal assent.

The provisions of the Act will take effect at the beginning of next year; concern had been expressed by the Building Societies Association (BSA) that the Act might be delayed until spring.

The single most important new freedom will be the ability to grant unsecured loans to individuals of up to £5,000. This will permit building societies to offer the equivalent of

Hong Kong Wharf trims its
title and lifts profits

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The company with the longest name on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange — The Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company — is to change its title to the more manageable one of The Wharf (Holdings).

In addition to the new name, Mr Peter Woo, the managing director and son-in-law of shipping tycoon Sir YK Pao, yesterday announced that pretax profits had almost doubled to HK\$1,165.2 million (£106 million) in the year ending March 31.

The name change is to reflect the 100-year-old firm's new status as an investment holding company, with interests in property, hotels, retailing, transport and financial services.

Shareholders are getting a one-for-10 scrip issue and a special one-for-10 centenary warrant to subscribe for

Profits up sharply at Lloyds

By Richard Thomson
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Oil price
fall hits
trade
surplus

By Graham Seargeant
Financial Editor

Falling oil prices have cut the surplus on the current account of Britain's balance of payments to £1.07 billion in the first half of this year, compared with a £1.53 billion surplus for the same six months last year and a Budget forecast of a maintained £3.5 billion surplus for the year as a whole.

The surplus on oil trade fell to £2.8 billion compared with £4.4 billion a year ago dragging the visible trade deficit from £1.4 billion to almost £3 billion. But this is more than made up by invisible earnings from investments, the City and tourism, which are estimated in advance to be earning a £700 million a month surplus.

The June trade figures, released yesterday, show a small increase in the overall current surplus to £77 million from £34 million in May and little change in the picture of sluggish imports and exports.

The improvement is entirely accounted for by a sharp fall in oil imports from £370 million to £237 million, their lowest level since January 1974. Oil exports fell more gently by £57 million to £526 million, raising the oil trade surplus from £212 million to £288 million. But this is little more than a third of the monthly surplus last autumn before the collapse of oil prices.

There was little reaction to the figures in the foreign exchange markets, although the non-oil visible trade deficit was higher and the overall June surplus somewhat lower than most City forecasts.

The most worrying element in the trade picture is the continuing upturn in the non-oil trade deficit since a sharp fall in April. Excluding erratic items such as gems, silver, ships and aircraft, as well as oil, the visible deficit edged up from £995 million in May to £1.12 billion last month.

Non-oil exports rose by only £17 million suggesting that British goods are not proving more competitive in export markets that remain sluggish.

Imports fell chiefly because of a fall in aircraft deliveries. The deficit on trade in manufactures for the second quarter as a whole, at £273 million was still sharply down on the £1.42 billion registered in the first quarter and the Government believes that there has been a slight upturn in the level of non-oil exports.

Some analysts in the City also suggest that the estimate of £790 million per month surplus on invisibles since April may prove optimistic.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1808.21 (+18.58)
Dow Jones	1808.21 (+18.58)
Tokyo	1805.59 (+24.35)
Nikkei Dow	1843.57 (+7.57)
Hong Kong	282.2 (-1.57)
Amsterdam Gen	1115.0 (-2.2)
Sydney AO	1851.7 (+21.2)
Frankfurt	646.74 (+3.22)
Commerzbank	n/a
General	n/a
Paribas CAC	n/a
Zurich	n/a
SKA General	n/a
London closing prices	Page 21

INTEREST RATES

Bank Rate	10%
3-month interbank	10.9%
3-month eligible bills	9.5%-9.7%
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate	8%
Federal Funds	9.75%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.80-5.78%
30-year bonds	9.6%-9.8%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£: \$1.4810	\$: £1.4825
£: DM3.1827	DM: £1.4775
£: Sfr2.5703	Sfr: £1.1134
£: FF10.2959	
£: Yen234.07	ECU 0.663857
£: Index: 73.0	SDR 20.79920

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
New Cavendish	120p (+10p)
Conroy Pot	148p (+10p)
Renold	75p (+8p)
G Ruddell	285p (+85p)
Reuters	495p (+7p)
Parkeide	81p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Blue Circle	571p (-22p)
Britoil	110p (-25p)
BP	583p (-10p)
BP	583p (-10p)
Atkins Bros	283p (-12p)
Marier East	545p (-10p)
Parkeide	81p (-10p)
Mercury Internat	553p (-15p)
Speyhawk	385p (-20p)
Sungai Besi Mines	88p (-10p)
GOLD	
London Fixing	AM \$348.00 pm \$349.40
close \$348.50-350.00 (£235.00-235.50)	
New York	Comex \$349.00-349.50
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Sept)	\$8.65 bbl (\$9.77)

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TEMPUS

Future looks bleak for Britoil investors

s bleak vestors

More certain is that the effort will be put into improving the Far East and eastern operations which are holding the bank back. At its aim of 18 per cent return on shareholders funds, it will also be more investing in non-interest earning income, which is proving a success in the present.

Alfred Preedy

Alfred Preedy is a no slimmer animal than it is to be, but has found comfort in rationalization.

The wholesaling, Royal lighter and printing school contracting divisions have, all gone, leaving a company a purely retail operation, with more than 160 confectionery, tobacco and newsagent (C) outlets.

Both sides have had problems, as witnessed by a recent profits slump to £1.01 million to £383,000 a year to March 29. Profit £208,000 after rationalization costs.

Operating profits down 17 per cent at £2 million, with CTN margin squeezed by the continuing drop in smoking, the stagnation of other lines and a staff cost rise ordered by the industry pay council. Margins were up in the other stores, but on insufficient volume to compensate sharp rate and rent increases.

Preedy is trying to get rid of its jam by pushing up high-margin goods, such as books, stationery and cash through its larger outlets, following the trend to con-

Lloyds Bank

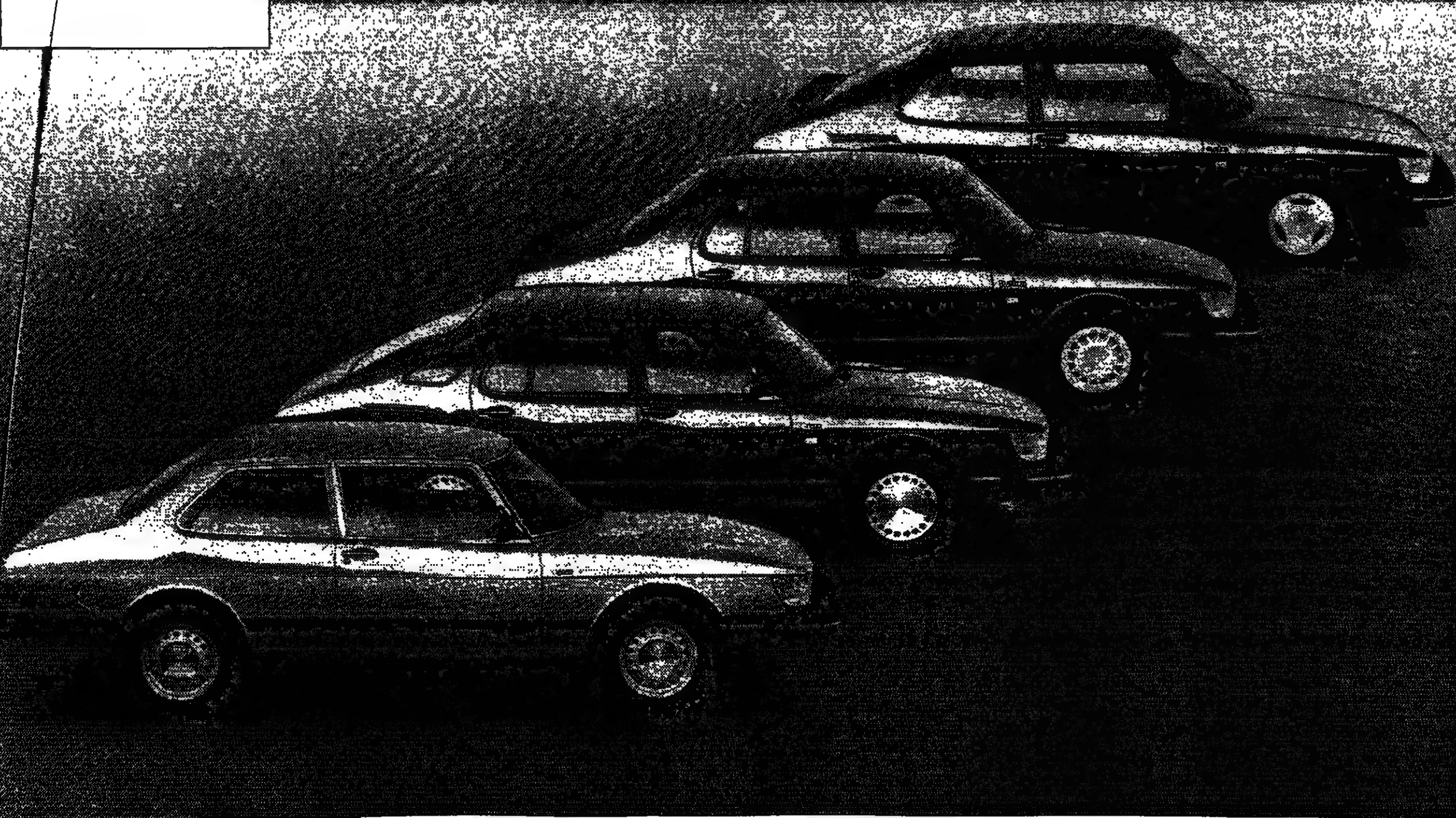
The shares slumped 12 1/2 points after the results yesterday but, as an afterthought, rallied 4p. Even if the outcome is not that exciting, Prema has strong asset backing and could well become the subject of take-over talk again, despite the large family holding.

APPOINTMENTS

Preedy is trying to generate out of its jam by pushing a high-margin goods, such as books, stationery and such, through its larger outlets, following the trend to convenience stores which are groceries, alcohol and extended opening hours. The group hopes to open a convenience outlets this year and extend the range of goods on sale at several CTRs.

The shares slipped 12 1/2 pips after the results were day but, as an afterthought rallied 40. Even if the price is not that exciting, Preedy should boost backing on account of its 100 per cent of take-over talk again, despite the large family hold-

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THE PRICES QUOTED (EXCLUDE AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS) INCLUDE FRONT AND REAR SEAT BELTS, CAR TAX AND VAT, BUT EXCLUDE DELIVERY, ROAD TAX, NUMBER PLATES AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS INDICATED. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURE

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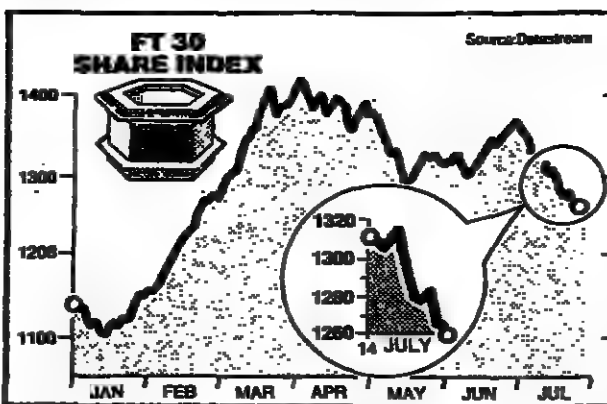
Blue Circle tumbles as gloom grows on profits outlook

By Michael Clark

Shares of Blue Circle Industries tumbled 20p to 573p yesterday, wiping £25 million from the group's stock market value as City analysts continued to take an increasingly pessimistic view of its prospects for the current year.

The rot set in on Thursday, following a meeting between the company and Kitcat & Aitken, the broker. Kitcat is said to have come away from the meeting in a bearish mood.

Later in the day, a seller of over 500,000 shares appeared in the market, but was unable to find a buyer. The shares



562.3 million, were much in line with expectations. Gills enjoyed gains of up to 1% in this trade.

But the Government broker felt confident enough to issue a further £400 million of Treasury index-linked stock, 2016, "A", by way of tender. Investors will pay an initial £40, with the balance on September 8.

Further reflection on ICT's second-quarter figures prompted a rise of 12p to 994p.

But the building sector was under a cloud, worried by reports that the European Commission was pressing for the Government to charge VAT on new homes. Tarmac fell 8p to 442p, Hepworth

the capital. Grand Met shed 1p at 370p.

The rest of the brewers appeared unsettled, with small gains in Belhaven, up 1p at 60p, Greenall Whitley 1p to 185p and Greene, King 2p to 210p. But losses were recorded in FIP Palmer, 3p to 159p, and Whitbread "A" 2p to 260p.

Speculation grew that Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group would counter BET's bid for Brengreen, when Hawley - down 3p at 102p - announced it had picked up a further 2.2 million shares in the market. This brings the number of shares purchased by Hawley in the past couple of days to 5.22 million, raising

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Rover deals could delay state sale

The Government's record as a whole in privatizing bits of industries, which seem less than saleable, is looking ragged.

It was surely not envisaged that the sale of British Shipbuilders' warship yards would have raised only £160 million, resulting in a book loss of £248 million. The rush to sell evidently produced a glut in the market at a time when the different cash priorities of the Ministry of Defence did not leave enough orders to go round. That suggests a triumph of immutability over planning.

Graham Day, who followed his instructions to the letter at British Shipbuilders, was moved to BL (now Rover) when the Department of Trade and Industry thought a similar process would have been well-nigh completed. Land Rover and Leyland Vehicles stayed (for how long?).

But the command that there must be sales remains. Hence the distinctly odd disposals of both Leyland Bus and the majority of Unipart. In the latter's case, the process of preparing a successful enterprise for sale, partly by the unfortunate addition of Edmunds Walker and partly through disentangling parts deals, has made Unipart much less valuable.

The sale of loss-making Leyland Bus to its new management looks equally messy. It will eliminate last year's loss of £33 million, out of an operating loss of £52 million for Leyland Vehicles as a whole, but Rover will have to pay much of the restructuring cost, and part with a share in the combined parts business. It does not look as if the quoted state-controlled company will see much extra cash. Nor does this type of sale offer any obvious industrial benefits. The corporate plan could as easily be used inside the group.

Indeed, the whole thing smacks of a distress sale, at the bottom of the market in the case of the bus company.

None of this would matter if it aided the long-term goal of returning basic businesses to the private sector, the object of the privatization programme. In the case of Rover, however, it is likely to have the opposite effect. Austin-Rover is having another tough time in the showrooms and is not so big or clear about its position in the market to offer much of an investment alone. The combined group is a better long-term proposition.

Acting under a false name

What's in a name? The answer, in the context of unit trusts, appears to be everything in marketing terms, but sometimes precious little in substance.

Trendy fund titles have come in waves - oils and energy in the mid-1970s, Japan in the early 1980s, and more recently Europe. But fashions change, and when they do the gap between the marketing image of a fund and the reality of its underlying investments can widen. Recent mutations in energy and commodity funds are particularly instructive.

The slump in oil prices has driven certain fund managers into a difficult corner: it is not easy to invest with confidence and marketing aplomb in companies trading in a depreciating asset. The smarter among them have used ingenious tactics to squeeze gains, or at least smaller losses, from a declining market.

They moved out of explorers and into utilities before the end of last year. Now the search is on to find investments which might, if you have a sufficiently creative imagination, fall within the trust's accepted investment criteria.

In fact, the industry's brighter sparks have shown such powers of imagination that the Department of Trade and Industry has decided to

bring out a consultative document next month to deal with creeping changes in investment strategies. The law does not provide that unit trusts should set out their investment objectives in detail, and the DTI is believed to want the arrangements more formalized so that radical changes register themselves in altered names.

Energy unit trusts such as Target, and most recently NM Rothschild's Energy Resources Trust, have already taken the plunge and sought a change of name and investment policy. The Rothschild unitholders received circulars last week informing them of a complete change of course: the managers propose to merge their units with those in the Australasian Smaller Companies fund.

Flexibility in investment management is undoubtedly a good thing, but here we seem to have a confession of error combined with financial paternalism. The nature of the fund which was the essence of its original appeal should not be dispensed with because the managers are not as clever as they thought they were. The labelling must not be a fashionable deception, or turned into one in the light-of-subsequent-shifts in the market.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Anglia Sacs (115p)	130	+6
Ashley (1135p)	208	-2
B&S Design (57p)	71	-
Beaverbrook (145p)	145	-
Bepel 37 1-2p	42	+1
Borland (125p)	140	-2
Broderick (145p)	150	-
Chelsea Man (125p)	129	-
Coated Electrodes (84p)	86	-
Evans Hutchins (70p)	73	-1
Fletcher Dennis (70p)	73	-1
GT Management (210p)	185	-
Guthrie Corp (150p)	155	+1
Harrison (150p)	157	-1

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES		
Market rates city's range	Market rates close	
	July 25	1 month
N York 1.4755-1.4910	1.4800-1.4915	0.42-0.40pm
Montréal 2.0520-2.0703	2.0520-2.0556	0.28-0.21pm
Amsterd 3.5645-3.6057	3.5645-3.5912	1.3-1.1pm
Interbank 5.35-5.54	5.35-5.54	1.3-1.1pm
Frankfurt 1.842-1.854	1.842-1.854	1.3-1.1pm
Paris 1.1257-1.1232	1.1257-1.1257	1.3-1.1pm
London 1.0751-1.0891	1.0747-1.0857	0.8-0.7pm
Stockholm 10.250-10.260	10.250-10.260	1.3-1.1pm
Madrid 210.04-220.01	210.04-220.01	1.3-1.1pm
Oslo 11.125-11.137	11.125-11.137	1.3-1.1pm
Wien 10.250-10.260	10.250-10.260	1.3-1.1pm
Delo 11.125-11.137	11.1261-11.1247	0.4-0.35d
Oslo 10.250-10.260	10.2595-10.2601	2.1-1.0pm
Frankfurt 1.842-1.854	1.842-1.854	1.3-1.1pm
Amsterd 3.5645-3.6057	3.5645-3.6057	1.3-1.1pm
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

divided, as Curn dividit. (1) Curn split, a stock split. (2) Curn all, a share or more of above. (3) Curn all (any) or more or above. Dealing or action days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday. (6) Saturday. (7) Sunday. (8) Monday. (9) Tuesday. (10) Wednesday. (11) Thursday. (12) Friday. (13) Saturday. (14) Sunday. (15) Monday. (16) Tuesday. (17) Wednesday. (18) Thursday. (19) Friday. (20) Saturday. (21) Sunday. (22) Monday. (23) Tuesday. (24) Wednesday. (25) Thursday. (26) Friday. (27) Saturday. (28) Sunday. (29) Monday. (30) Tuesday. (31) Wednesday. (32) Thursday. (33) Friday. (34) Saturday. (35) Sunday. (36) Monday. (37) Tuesday. (38) Wednesday. (39) Thursday. (40) Friday. (41) Saturday. (42) Sunday. (43) Monday. (44) Tuesday. (45) Wednesday. (46) Thursday. (47) Friday. (48) Saturday. (49) Sunday. (50) Monday. (51) Tuesday. (52) Wednesday. (53) Thursday. (54) Friday. (55) Saturday. (56) Sunday. (57) Monday. (58) Tuesday. (59) Wednesday. (60) Thursday. 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High/Low Company Price Chg Price % YTD P/E					High/Low Company Price Chg Price % YTD P/E					High/Low Company Price Chg Price % YTD P/E					High/Low Company Price Chg Price % YTD P/E				
11	11	A S & M Co	10.5	0.8	8.3	10.8	290	148	148	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	290	148	148	0.0	0.0
12	12	Alcoa	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
13	13	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
14	14	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
15	15	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
16	16	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
17	17	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
18	18	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
19	19	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
20	20	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
21	21	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
22	22	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
23	23	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
24	24	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
25	25	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
26	26	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
27	27	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
28	28	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
29	29	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
30	30	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
31	31	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
32	32	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
33	33	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
34	34	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
35	35	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
36	36	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
37	37	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
38	38	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
39	39	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
40	40	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
41	41	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
42	42	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
43	43	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
44	44	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
45	45	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
46	46	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
47	47	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
48	48	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
49	49	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
50	50	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
51	51	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
52	52	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
53	53	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
54	54	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
55	55	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
56	56	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
57	57	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
58	58	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
59	59	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
60	60	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
61	61	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
62	62	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
63	63	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
64	64	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
65	65	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
66	66	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
67	67	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
68	68	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
69	69	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
70	70	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
71	71	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
72	72	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
73	73	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
74	74	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
75	75	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
76	76	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
77	77	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
78	78	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
79	79	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
80	80	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
81	81	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
82	82	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
83	83	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	149	149	149	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	149	149	149	0.0	0.0
84	84	Aluminum	11.5	0.5	4.3	11.5	1												

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Five million in line for a share of TSB

If you were a buyer of British Telecom, then don't miss the TSB which promises to be the most profitable new issue yet. Sir John Read, chairman of the Trustee Savings Bank, this week, at last, gave the formal and public declaration that the flotation would go ahead, though he was coy about giving the exact day in September.

Private investors should keep an eye on dates for completing the formalities of applying for shares, because all the signs are that it will prove to be a bonanza of British Telecom proportions for anyone lucky enough to get shares.

It is the largest share launch ever seen on the Stock Exchange, excluding the Government's privatization programme, and the bank is keen to attract as many private investors as possible. It is

hoping to get more than a million.

The flotation was to have gone ahead last year, of course, until some Scottish depositors put a spanner in the works by insisting that the bank was owned by its depositors. This contradicted the view of the Government and the bank that no one owned it. The subsequent legal wrangling dragged on until early this month when the Law Lords finally decided that the Government and the bank were right, leaving the door open for the delayed flotation to go ahead.

Owning TSB shares should be a bonanza for several reasons. It is, to begin with, literally a give-away. As no one owns the bank, no one owns its £800 million reserves or its fixed assets — until its shares are sold. In pumping their money into the bank,

investors will automatically be picking up the ownership of all these assets at the same time.

City analysts are virtually unanimous in believing the shares will rise rapidly in price after the launch, just as BT's did. "It's bound to go well," says Tim Clarke, of stockbroker Scrimgeour Vickers. "It has all the makings of an

extremely popular issue." Once this sort of opinion becomes widespread in the stock market, it tends to become self-fulfilling as everyone wants to get in on the action.

But the biggest upward pressure on the share price is likely to come from the large institutional investors. "The TSB

looks a good institutional buy," says Mr Clarke, "but a lot of institutions will get fewer shares than they want." With an significant new bank entering the stock market, the institutions will need a lot of TSB shares if they are to maintain an even spread of holdings in the sector. This will create a heavy demand for shares, much as institutional

lion customers are eligible, and if they all apply for shares only half the issue will be available for all other private and institutional investors. The institutions will almost certainly not get the quota of shares they need from this and will be all the more eager to buy in the secondary market after the launch.

The share issue will probably contain features designed to minimize "stagging" — buying shares in order to sell at a profit immediately after the issue — and multiple applications will also be discouraged. There will probably also be perks attached to the shares as there were in the BT issue but the TSB has not revealed any details yet.

The somewhat arbitrary date of December 17, 1984, was chosen some time ago as the cut-off date beyond which new customers are not eligible

for preferential treatment in the allotment of shares. However, the five million people who were customers before that date will still not be eligible unless they register with the bank before September 5.

A full-scale publicity campaign, cutely featuring bowler hats to signify investment, has now got under way and information packs are available from TSB branches. But the simplest way to find out about the flotation is to ring the Share Information Office (an other borrowing from the BT issue) on 0272 300 300. The office will not only send you the information pack but register your name so that you will automatically receive a share application form on the appropriate day.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Leave the PEP to the plan manager

Further details emerged this week on how the new Personal Equity Plan, which will be available to investors from January 1, will work.

The PEP, revealed by the Chancellor in this year's Budget, allows individuals to invest up to £2,400 a year in a mixture of shares and unit trusts and to enjoy tax relief on the dividends, while sales within the plan will be free of capital gains tax.

The most popular way in which PEPs are likely to be marketed is in a form similar to unit trusts. The Government has given the go-ahead to common management schemes whereby the money that investors want to be put into a PEP will be pooled together by a "plan manager", who would make all the investment decisions.

The major plan managers are likely to be institutions such as unit trust companies, banks and building societies. Barclays Bank, for example, announced this week that it is to offer PEPs through a new stockbroking service.

PEPs will run on the basis of the calendar year rather than the tax year and you will be able to take out only one plan a year. This is the case even where you do not put the maximum permitted amount — £2,400 a year or £200 a month — into a PEP.

For example, if you put

£1,200 into a PEP next year you will not be able to start up another PEP with, say, a different fund manager, until the following year.

However, this does not automatically restrict you to one plan manager a year. If you do not like the investment performance you are entitled to switch your PEP to another plan manager without forfeiting your tax privileges.

This may prove an expensive business. It is worth bearing in mind that the Government is not putting any limit on the amount you can be charged by the plan manager, although the charges will have to be clearly stated.

One interesting aspect announced this week is that, once all your investments have been made, you or your plan manager can switch the unit and investment trusts into shares.

However, the converse is not allowed, so you cannot convert the shares into unit or investment trusts even where the maximum thresholds for these types of investments within the PEP have not been reached.

To secure the PEP tax breaks the PEP must be allowed to run until December 31 of the year after the starting year of the plan. So if you begin a plan in July 1987 it must be continued, without withdrawals or other breaches of the PEP requirements, until December 31, 1988.

You won't get rich on the Imperial roubles

Interest in Russian Imperial Bonds surged last week after the British and Soviet governments signed an agreement to unlock £45 million to compensate British holders of financial and property assets seized in the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

But what does the agreement hold for the ordinary individual who bought Russian bonds? The answer in most cases will be not very much.

One investor who will be leaving his Russian bond on the office wall is Michael Bliss, chief executive of Frasers Financial Services.

Mr Bliss, aged 54, was one of a number of readers who called *The Times* to seek advice on what to do. Unfortunately his 1913 City of St Petersburg bond has a face value of 189 roubles, equivalent to £20, leaving him ripe for a payout of about £2.20. Although the bond was a present, the frame cost rather more than that. "I don't think I'll be retiring just yet," he said.

The £45 million bounty being paid out for the bonds comes from bank accounts of the Imperial Russian Government frozen in London when



Pretty but paltry: Michael Bliss with his St Petersburg bond, worth £2.20 today

Lenin came to power. It will be used to settle claims worth an estimated £400 million which must be lodged with the Government by December 31.

The money will be used to settle all the claims, which means that if everyone eligible applies a payment of about 11p in the pound will be made. The fewer who apply, the higher the percentage payout. However, the payments will be made only on the value of the investments in 1917. For holders of property and other physical assets that means no account will be taken of inflation. For holders of bonds, it means no compensation for 69 years of missed interest payments.

So before you smash your metal frames, take a minute to work out how much

you paid for your bond and how much you are likely to get back from the Government.

Those who bought their bonds on the stock market through a broker might have paid only £3 per £100 bond — the price they traded at the day before the Government's announcement. For these investors, it might be a good idea to cash them in with the Government, a move that might treble their money.

However, people who bought the Donetz Railway 4 per cent bonds of 1893 and others for their aesthetic appeal in a specialist collectors' shop might do better to forget any ideas about raising a little extra cash. Prices on the high street vary, but some bonds in particularly good condition

have been known to fetch hundreds of pounds.

Any lingering temptation to take up the Government's offer may also be killed by other considerations. How much did it cost to frame the print? How much will it cost to send the bonds and application forms off to the Foreign Office?

And are you prepared to wait while the government bureaucracy cranks slowly into action? Despite official promises to do things as quickly as possible, it will be 1987, and possibly 1988 or later, before a cheque, courtesy of the Imperial Russian Government, lands on your doormat.

Richard Lander

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90 DAYS ACCOUNT

Suddenly, the interest battle heats up

The Chancellor's attempts to turn us all into share-owning mini-capitalists seems to be working. Figures this week reveal that unit trust investments last month exceeded the amount going into building societies.

The societies say competition from 31st issue National Savings certificates and unit trusts, coupled with falling returns from their own investment accounts, have caused the decline. National Savings certificates pay 7.85 per cent tax-free, comparing very favourably with building societies, most of which are paying 7 to 7.5 per cent. Savings certificates are particularly attractive to higher-rate tax payers.

However, the past couple of weeks have seen a rash of new extra interest accounts from the societies. Anglia, for example, has increased the rate paid

on its Instant Gold account for sums of £20,000 or more, to 8 per cent, which is just below the 8.05 per cent paid by the market leader, Cheltenham & Gloucester, on its Cheltenham Gold Account for £20,000 or more.

But, as always, the smaller societies are offering the best rates. On the instant access accounts or those with relatively minor restrictions, the

Aid To Thrift Building Society tops the list, closely followed by the Teachers, but these returns will be available only until August 1. Of the instant access accounts, Wessex, paying 7.85 per cent for investments of £1 or more looks the best bet from August.

Sussex County is paying 8.25 per cent on its 90 days notice account for sums of £5,000 or more, while the

Lambeth is offering 8.15 per cent on its Premium Shares for relatively small investments of £250 or more. Three months' notice is required. Haywards Heath Building Society is paying 8.25 per cent for £5,000 or more on three months' notice while the Melton Mowbray offers 8.3 per cent on its Supreme 60 account for £500 or more on two months' notice.

BUILDING SOCIETY BEST BUYS

Account	Type	Net rate %	Compound rate %	Minimum investment £	Other conditions
Aid To Thrift	Share	8.75	8.94	0	B
Aid To Thrift	Deposit	8.50	8.68	0	B
Teachers	Bullion Shares	8.25	8.42	0	B
Wessex	Ordinary Shares	7.85	8.00	500	A, B
Frome Selwood	14 Days Notice	7.80	7.95	1,000	B
Harrow	7 Day	7.75	7.90	500	B
Peckham	7 Day Notice	7.75	7.90	500	B
St Pancras	High Yield Shares	7.75	7.90	100	G

Source: Building Society Choice, published by MoneyGuides, Riverside House, Rattlehead, Suffolk IP30 0SF (04493 287). Yearly subscription £10.50, single monthly issue £2.50, weekly issue on application.

KEY: Little notice, small amounts A Minimum additions and withdrawals of £250 B "Old" rate — lower from August 1-5-1986 "emergency card"

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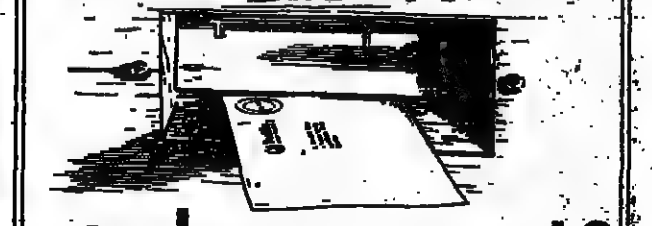
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Dancing Brave's ability to accelerate should prove the crucial factor

By Mandarín (Michael Phillips)

While it may be a trifle unfair to those other good horses who have contested the race since 1975, the fact remains that this year's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes is being hailed as the most exciting on the course since Grundy just touched off Bustino on the corresponding occasion 11 years ago.

The reason for all the hubbub is the rematch between Shahrastrani and Dancing Brave, who have not met since their controversial race in the Derby seven weeks ago. In the meantime they have gone their different ways: Shahrastrani to the Curragh to capture the Irish Derby; Dancing Brave to Sandown where he won the Eclipse Stakes.

If my memory serves me right the 1975 epic was a case of the quicker (Grundy) just managing to wear down the galloper (Bustino). Now, in taking Dancing Brave to get his revenge on Shahrastrani, I am again looking to the horse with proven powers of acceleration being able to wear down the relentless galloper.

Having ridden Bonhomie behind Shahrastrani in Ireland, Pat Eddery is only too well aware of the enormity of the task that faces him this afternoon as he steps into the hot seat on Dancing Brave in place of the injured Greville Starkey.

But deep down I sense that he thinks that he can pull it off. Eddery points quite rightly to the colossal amount of ground that Dancing Brave made up in the straight at

Epsom to finish just half a length behind Shahrastrani. He will also be at pains not to give his principal rival such a start today in what is bound to be a fast run race on a track which has a notoriously short straight.

What I like about Dancing Brave is the fact that he has beaten top class older horses. To do it by four lengths when, to quote his trainer, Guy Harwood, "We only just managed to get him there because he had to have a rest after his Epsom ordeal" is a performance of real merit in my book. Now the word from Pulborough is that Dancing Brave is better than he was on Eclipse day.

If that turns out to be the case he will be a very tough nut to crack indeed and he is my nap, even though Shahrastrani is one of his opponents again.

The presence of pacemakers brings memories of 1975 flooding back. On that occasion Dick Hern fielded Highest and Kinglet to blaze the way for Bustino in the hope that they would find a chink in Grundy's armour. They did not. And I believe that the same play will fail again today when Bolden and Vouchsafe are there solely to do all the donkey work for Petroski, the winner of the race 12 months ago.

Also in 1975 it was the lot of the crack French filly, Dahlia, to follow Grundy and Bustino home in third place. Now that prize may well be the best that the connections of Triptych can hope for. She was beaten

four lengths by Dancing Brave in the Eclipse.

Earlier in the season Triptych finished three lengths ahead of Petroski and Shadrari in the Coronation Cup. While I'm sure that those two four-year-old colts are better than that, the overall pattern of form suggests that they have it all to do this afternoon against their two talented younger rivals.

Princess Anne has a good chance of riding her first winner on Cresta Auction in the Orloff Diamond Stakes. Yet I still prefer Mawstiff, whose rider, Franca Vitadini, has won this race four times. Her experience could be decisive in a fast-run race.

Gentle Persuasion and Mountain Memory, both unbeaten, can be expected to go well in the Princess Margaret Stakes without being quite good enough to give weight to Hiaam, who ran so promisingly at Newmarket first time when she was beaten a length by Canadian Mill. Significantly, the latter has not been asked to reoppose 5lb worse terms.

The EBF Granville Stakes has long been a favourite target of Peter Walwyn who has won it for the past two seasons and can complete a treble today with Faillig.

At Ayr, there is a good chance that Lord Derby's famous colours will be carried successfully three times: initially by High Tension (3.0); then again by Teleprompter in the Land of Burns Stakes and finally by his younger half-sister, Table-Turning (5.10).

Finally, following that commendable performance at York, Rotherfield Greys should be all the rage to win the Greenall's Brewery Handicap at Newcastle where Majd can surprise her owner's other runner, Wabarab, in the Northern Stakes.

Today's course specialists

ASCOT
TRAINERS: G. Harwood, 37 winners from 155 runners, 23.9%; J. Tice, 16 from 71, 21.1%; J. Sutcliffe, 5 from 26 at 19.2%.

AYR
TRAINERS: G. Pritchard-Gordon, 14 winners from 46 runners, 30.4%; M. Eassey, 17 from 103, 16.5%.

NEWCASTLE
TRAINERS: G. Pritchard-Gordon, 10 winners from 46 runners, 21.7%; J. Tice, 23 winners from 113 rides, 20.4%; D. Nicholls, 20 from 131, 15.3%.

WARWICK
TRAINERS: G. Pritchard-Gordon, 6 winners from 32 runners, 18.8%; B. Hills, 14 from 94, 14.9%.

LINGFIELD PARK
TRAINERS: H. Cecil, 19 winners from 38 runners, 50.0%; G. Harwood, 27 from 154, 17.5%; J. Sutcliffe, 14 from 65, 15.2%.

Blinked first time
AYC: 230 Mawstiff, 3.0 miles, 4.40 sec; J. Tice, 3.10 Table Turning.

NEWCASTLE: 2.5 River Gambler.
WARWICK: 7.20 Grand Celebration, 8.20 Plum Bossy.



Head-on confrontation: Dancing Brave (left) and Shahrastrani, whose second meeting could draw a record crowd to Ascot



The makings of a perfect match

By Michael Seely

This afternoon's clash between Shahrastrani and Dancing Brave at Ascot irresistibly recalls those battles between Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett in the early part of the decade. Shahrastrani, the proven stayer will, like Coe, be forcing the pace some way from home to attempt to sap the energy from Dancing Brave, who, like Ovett, possesses a formidable burst of finishing speed.

Just as between the human athletes, tactics may prove to be the decisive factor in what has widely been billed the race of the century. At the Moscow Olympics in 1980, for example, Coe tried to lead from start to tape in the 800 metres but burst himself in the process allowing Ovett to sprint to victory.

Then, a few days later in the 1500 metres, the tables were turned when Coe showed more discretion by piling on the pressure later in the race with the result that he was able to fight off the late attack of Ovett, who finished third.

In this afternoon's drama the brainwork will have to be supplied by the jockeys, Walter Swinburn and Pat Eddery. And the strength of the gallop set by the riders on the three pacemakers — Dihistan, Bolden and Vouchsafe — will also play an important part.

The two superstars present a striking contrast in appearance. The chestnut Shahrastrani is the lengthier individual, being the epitome of the high-class middle distance animal. The dark brown Dancing Brave looks burlier and more robust and is built like a typical milker.

Shahrastrani is extremely relaxed, thereby allowing his jockey to lie close to the pace without releasing too much adrenalin too early. Dancing Brave, however, is like a coiled spring and Eddery will be forced to wait as long as possible before pressing the button which will produce those explosive powers of acceleration.

The best method of pinpointing the issues involved is to study the sectional timing recorded by the two principals in key races. This difficult work has been carried out by Michael Tanner, a schoolmaster from Seaford in Lincolnshire.

In the Epsom Derby, for example, Shahrastrani covered the last quarter in 23.56 seconds with furlong times of 11.56 and 12.0 respectively. Dancing Brave's eye-catching late run over the same section was recorded in 22.20 seconds with a phenomenal penulti-

mate furlong of 10.30 seconds slowing down to one of 11.80.

"Dancing Brave's penultimate 220 yards was extraordinarily quick for a middle distance horse and, according to my figures, has only been approached by Sir Ivor's last-furlong sprint of 10.68 seconds in the 1968 Derby," Tanner says. These figures represent speeds of 43.40 and 42.13mph respectively compared with the 37mph that is normally recorded by the leaders at the vital stage of an average truly-run high-class contest.

Tanner then explained his theory. "Contrary to what most people think, the average time per quarter in the Derby was not all that slow in this year's Derby. And to my mind the most significant fact is that Dancing Brave was slowing down so much in the last furlong, even though he was still travelling faster than Shahrastrani."

How the principals shape up

DANCING BRAVE

Height: 16 hands (64 ins). Weight: 1,075lb.

Date of birth: May 11, 1983. Jockey: Pat Eddery. Trainer: Guy Harwood. Owner: Khalid Abdullah.

Colours: Green, red and cap. White silks. Breeder: Glen Oak Farm, US. Breeding: Lyphard - Navajo Princess.

Recent form: July 5, Sandown Park, Coral Eclipse Stakes (Group II), 1st. June 4, Epsom, Ever Ready Derby Stakes (Group I), 2nd. May 3, Newmarket, General Accident 2,000 Guineas (Group I), 1st. April 17, Newmarket, Charles Chase Stakes (Group III), 1st.

SHAHRASTRANI

Height: 15 hands 2 ins (62 1/2 ins). Weight: 1,050lb.

Date of birth: March 27, 1983. Jockey: Walter Swinburn. Trainer: Michael Stoute. Owner: The Aga Khan.

Colours: Green, red and cap. White silks. Breeder: The Aga Khan, US. Breeding: Nijinsky - Shadams. Price money won: £241,178.

Recent form: June 28, Curragh, Buides Irish Derby Stakes (Group I), 1st. June 4, Epsom, Ever Ready Derby Stakes (Group I), 2nd. May 14, York, Mecca-Dante Stakes (Group II), 1st. April, Sandown Park, Guardian Classic Trial (Group III), 1st.

BIG RACE FIELD

3.20 KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND STAKES (Group I: £152,468: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

301 210-000 BOLDEN (b c Bold Lad - Golden Keep) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) W Hent 4-9-7. P Cook 6 (beaverbrook, maple leaf green cross belts, red cap)

302 112-113 DIHISTAN (BF) (c) (b c Tymavos - Demosa) (H H Aga Khan) M Stoute 4-9-7. A Kimberley 7 (green, red saddle)

303 2011-33 PETOSKI (BF) (CD) (b c Ninkali - Sushila) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) W Hent 4-9-7. W Carson 5 (beaverbrook, maple leaf green cross belts and cap)

304 11-241 SHARDARI (CD) (b c Top Ville - Sharmada) (H H Aga Khan) M Stoute 4-9-7. S Cuthbert 8 (green, and chocolate hoops, chocolate cap)

305 0-11330 SUPREME LEADER (b c Bustino - Princess Zana) (Capt M Lamos) C Brittain 4-9-7. A Murray 2 (royal blue, white hoops, striped cap)

306 0-04100 VOUCHSAFE (b c Bustino - Glorious Consent) (Dowager Lady Beaverbrook) W Hent 4-9-7. B Procter 4 (beaverbrook, maple leaf green cross belts, white cap)

307 03-4212 TRIPTYCH (b f Riverman - Trillon) (A Clora) P L Blancane (Fr) 4-9-4. Y Saint-Martin 9 (right blue, blue and mauve halved sleeves)

308 11-1121 DANCING BRAVE (b c Lyphard - Navajo Princess) (K Abdullah) G Harwood 3-8-8. Pat Eddery 1 (green with pink sash and cap, white sleeves)

309 2-1111 SHAHRASTRANI (ch c Nijinsky - Shadams) (H H Aga Khan) M Stoute 3-8-8. W R Swinburn 3 (green and white)

5-4 Shahrastrani, Dancing Brave, 13-2 Shadrari, 14-1 Petroski, 20-1 Triptych, 50-1 Dihistan, 66-1 Supreme Leader, 500-1 Bolden, Vouchsafe.

FORM: DIHISTAN (8-13) 3rd to Dublin (8-5) at the Curragh, previously (8-9) beat St Hilarion (9-0) 3/4 at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, 237119, firm, June 20, 10m), SHARDARI (8-0) 3rd winner at Newmarket from Baby Turk (8-0), PETOSKI (8-3) 1st away 3rd and his pacemaker VOUCHSAFE (8-0) unplaced (1m 4f, 220221, good, July 8, 8m). Last season SHARDARI (8-0) beat Free Goose (8-3) 1/2 at Newbury (1m 4f, good), PETOSKI (8-8) won this race last year by a neck from On So Sharp (8-5) on firm ground.

SHAHRASTRANI (8-0) best strong finishing DANCING BRAVE (8-0) 1st in the Derby at Epsom (1m 4f, good), last Shahrastrani (8-0) beat Bonhomie (8-0) 2/1 in the Irish Derby (1m 4f, 192200, good, June 28, 17m), and DANCING BRAVE (8-8) best TRIPTYCH (8-4) 4th in the Eclipse at Sandown (1m 2f, 213440, good, July 5, 8m). TRIPTYCH (8-8) had previously beaten Altheus (8-11) a short head at Longchamps, Baby Turk (8-13) a short head back 3rd (1m 4f, good to firm). Earlier Triptych (8-1) short head Epsom 2nd to Saint Estephe (8-0). PETOSKI (8-0) 3rd away 3rd and SHARDARI (8-0) 1/2 back in 4th (1m 4f, 249086, good, June 5, 10m).

Selection: SHARDARI

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

WE'LL TIME THE 10,000m TO ONE HUNDREDTH OF A SECOND.

OR THIS MUCH OF A FOOT.

OMEGA
OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

SCOTLAND 1986

Ives to ride as first jockey to Balding

ian Balding confirmed yesterday that Tony Ives will ride as first jockey to the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes next season. The announcement followed Ives' statement on Thursday that he would be moving on from Bill O'Gorman's Newmarket yard.

He concluded negotiations with Balding yesterday following the trainer's return from the Kewenau sales and the move now makes Pat Eddery's widely-predicted switch to ride for Khaled Abdullah the more likely.

Eddery had frequently ridden for Balding this season but Ives took over at the Newmarket July meeting, where he partnered the promising juveniles, Chasing Moonbeams and Forest Flower, to victory.

The new combination was quickly in action at Ascot yesterday when Ives partnered Musical Review for Balding in the Virginia Water Maiden Stakes but the combination could only finish fourth behind the even-money favourite, Gayane, ridden by Steve Cauthen.

The day's riding honours, though, went unquestionably to Willie Carson, who had been grounded for the best part of a week with a bad back after being thrown in the parade ring at Newbury, Carson, who is very strong, proved his fitness to team up with Petroski in today's big race by riding a 1000-1 treble on Satisfaction, Cress Bay and Petrizzo.

Evening cards, page 27. Results, page 29

In the Canbourn Chase Maiden Stakes, Carson made his move on Satisfaction at the same time as Cauthen on the odds-on favourite, Miller's Dust. The two matched strides through the last 250 yards but Satisfaction just gained the upper hand to win by a head.

I interviewed Carson and Hern's assistant, Alex Scott, about Satisfaction's improvement, compared with his ninth to Celestial Storm at Newmarket a fortnight ago. They were told that the colt was not to go to France today, but was held up here, and that he also appreciated the easier ground. They accepted the explanation.

The Rous Memorial Handicap could not have been run better for the seven-year-old, Cress Bay, who has to be covered up as long as possible. The 10-1 chance was tracking a wall of horses for five of the six furlongs, then had to be switched — which maintained his interest — to find a gap. He burst between Cold Prospect and the favourite, Chummy's Pet, well inside the final furlong to score by half a length.

Petrizzo returned to his best form and gave Chive Britain a welcome winner when beating Newsells Park and Western Dancer in the 10-1 Brown Jack Stakes.

Ellison steady to disa York

8-10

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Storming victory for gold medals

Cheers can again inspire an outsider

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent



There is the same warm welcome and the same cooling breeze as 16 years ago when Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh was the scene of a group of decent club runners, some more than decent — in fact, one of our number, Keith Robinson, of Tipton, nicknamed "Katie" because he worked in an abattoir, had won the national junior cross-country that year.

We had borrowed a small marquee and 12 of us were camping on the Dalkeith Road. We were having a great time. But we had a problem. We had got tickets for all but the opening session of the 1970 Commonwealth Games. But we were not going to miss the 10,000 metres. This was the staff we had been weaned on cross-country in winter, about 5,000 and 10,000 metres on the track in summer. What is more, it was going to be one of the great 10,000-metre races.

There was Nafati Temu, the title-holder and reigning Olympic champion. Temu had beaten the legendary Ron Clarke. There was Dick Taylor, who lived on the other side of the Midlands from us in Coventry. The wackier Taylor had written the British record books at 5,000 and 10,000 metres. He had even beaten the legendary Clarke. And then there was Clarke himself.

The Australian was the world record-holder, who had broken not just one world record but the age of 26. Yet, somehow, Clarke had managed to win a gold medal in an international championship. This was his last chance and with little thought of jingoism, even allowing for Taylor, whom we knew, we wanted Clarke to win. Not too many people, even in Scotland, gave Jackie Stewart much chance.

But Stewart, who got "a great kick" out of racing, said in Thursday evening's special ceremony, recalled yesterday that "few people realized that I went into that race with the second fastest time of the season. I felt I could get a medal, but I didn't think it would be gold."

Running of heats annoys competitors

Steve Overt will be required to run a heat in the 5,000 metres after all. Only 17 entries have been received, but two heats have been scheduled for Monday with eight men in one race and nine in the other. Twelve will go through to the final on Thursday.

Gordon Wright, the athletics manager of England, was annoyed when he heard of the decision to go ahead with the heats. Tim Mearns, from Crawley, ranked third in the Commonwealth, said: "It is ridiculous that we are not running a straight final. There was a bigger field for the two miles in Birmingham last weekend and it looks as though the organizers have opted for heats to fill up their programme without any consideration for the athletes."

If the Scots did not rate Stewart before his surprise victory, they have certainly rated him since. He now works as a dental mechanic in a health centre. "I suppose that makes me a bit more obvious to people, but hardly a week goes by when somebody doesn't mention it."

We solved the problem of our tickets easily enough. These were the days, however, two years before the Munich massacre. We just put on our track suits, ran through the open gates of Pollock Hall, the athletes' village and got on an official bus, which took us straight into the stadium.

We saw Temu and the rest drop away, leaving Clarke and Taylor, who were alternating the lead, and Stewart. "People asked why I didn't do some of the leading, but I wasn't asking. Clarke and Taylor were having a wee word to each other, agreeing to lead alternately. I knew with two laps to go I could win. But I left it to the last 100 metres to make sure. The noise from the crowd was just fantastic."

And it is that same Meadowbank roar that can lift Allister Hutton over Jon Solly, Mike McLeod and Steve Sims, the English favourites, and Steve Jones for Wales and the other five contestants who are all within seconds of each other. Jamie Marsh and Paul Sheard, of Guernsey, have to be discounted. And as Stewart says of the unfortunate bowler's decline: "It's their loss, not ours."

The hammer is less afflicted by absence, and should be a straight fight between Dave Smith and Matt Mitchell, of England. Martin Gilvan, of Northern Ireland, and Joe Cragley, of Australia. Kim Hagger and Judy Simpson renew their close rivalry in the heptathlon, with Daley Thompson beginning his latest onslaught on the decathlon world record tomorrow. Colin Jackson, of Wales, the world junior title holder, will get a glimpse of just how good Mark McKoy, of Canada, is in the hurdles heats this afternoon. While Ben Johnson, the outstanding favourite, runs the 100 metres heats. And, with the loss of the Nigerians and Jamaicans, Roger Black now looks to be the only contender to Darren Clark, of Australia, in the 400 metres.

Boxing veto causes difficulties

Federation veto increases considerable confusion

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent



Boxing, which has been the worst hit of all the games by the boycott, reducing 168 competitors to 86, was thrown into further confusion yesterday when the Commonwealth Games Federation decided to veto the special three-cornered tournament between England, Scotland and Northern Ireland to bolster the Sunday programme, which had been reduced to four bouts. "Our aim was to give the public value for money," Frank Hendry, the director of the Games' boxing, said yesterday.

No reason was given by the Federation for the veto but it is believed that they were annoyed that the decision was not sought first before going ahead with the arrangements and releasing the news to the Press. Another point of view is that the Federation believed the tournament might have further downgraded the Games' boxing.

The veto means that the boxing will either have to be spread over more than the original 11 sessions or be reduced to eight or even six sessions. The hopes of Kevin Hickley, the England coach, that his superbly talented, super-heavyweight, his super-heavyweight, might have an easy passage into the final of the three-man draw, were dashed when the draw yesterday pitted Oyeubala against Lennox Lewis, of Canada, the 1985 world junior champion and silver medal winner in the 1985 World Cup.

Nor did Hickley have much luck with his other gold-medal hope, Rod Douglas, at middleweight. Douglas has run up against yet another Canadian, Egerton Marcus, who won the silver medal in the world

championships in Reno this year.

At flyweight, John Lyon, of England, the five times ABA champion, meets the winner of the bout between Drew Docherty, of Scotland, and Steve Beaupre, of Canada, two who have already been beaten by the Englishman but are thirsting for revenge. If Lyons gets through he is almost certain to meet yet another old rival who is wanting to square the account, Kerry Webster, of Wales who has drawn Leonard Makhanaya, of Swaziland.

In the heavyweight division the home countries come up against each other quickly. Kevin McCormack, of Wales, meets Douglas Young, of Scotland, and the winner faces Eric Cardouza, the Englishman. At the light heavyweight England and Scotland appeared to have fired rather better. Harry Lawson, of Scotland, has drawn Noel Thomas, of the Channel Islands and Jim Moran will be meeting Pua Don Ulberg, of Western Samoa. But Byron Pullen, of Wales must take on Gerald Storey of Northern Ireland.

It is typical of these Games that after the draw was made everyone including officials, boxers and the media were given a fright. They were told that the draw might have to be made again if the Welsh pulled out of the game. Later the situation was 19-11 with Hill holding at least one shot. But Thomson took out the shot bowl with his last word to score 2 for victory.

Cooper succumbs

Malcolm Cooper, England's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony, had the spotlight taken away from him by a Canadian student, Sharon Bowes, aged 19, who is half his age, when the shooting competition began yesterday. Cooper, winner of six medals in Brisbane four years ago, collected another bronze in the air rifle pairs with Robert Smith, but the Games record was shattered by Bowes, an attractive blonde, the only woman taking part, and Montreal favourite, Guy Llorion.

They won the gold with 1,167 points and Bowes was the top individual scorer with 590, only 10 short of the maximum. Australia, through Wolfgang Jobst and Anton Wurfl, were second with 1,151, five points behind Cooper and Smith.

Alister Allan and Bill MacNeill, of Scotland, the defending champions, finished only joint fourth with Guernsey, with a score of 1,137, coincidentally the same as their winning total in Brisbane. "You couldn't print what I really feel about my performance today," Allan said.

Cooper, an Olympic gold medal winner in the three-position rifle event, said after scoring 579 points in his weakest competition yesterday, "I was below par so maybe I'll be above par in my other events. I'm not normally as quick as I was today and I don't know why that was."

The winner of a record six medals in the 1982 Games, Cooper was the first to finish his 60 shots. Bowes used up all but two minutes of her two and a quarter hours. But she finished with the only maximum 100 in any of the six rounds of shooting, including an incredible 17 successive bulls, to make up for the disappointment of losing to the Canadian. Cooper missed the Olympic bronze by one point. "I nearly always start well and finish well,"

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Rolling along: A Northern Ireland pair sway to curve of the wood (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Welshman scares Thomson

By Gordon Allan

Andy Thomson, of England, the leading contender in the Commonwealth Games singles, beat Ray Hill, of Wales, 21-19 in his opening match at Balmuccia yesterday. Thomson's relief at the end was plain to see for Hill, a retired headmaster, had run his much closer than at one time seemed likely.

Thomson, bowling confidently, led 16-9 before Hill scored four shots on one end to change the complexion of the game. Later the situation was 19-11 with Hill holding at least one shot. But Thomson took out the shot bowl with his last word to score 2 for victory.

The youngest competitor in the singles, Richard Corsie, of Scotland, who is likely to be in hot pursuit of Thomson, proved the point by coming from behind to beat Peter Fong, of Fiji, 21-18 and Mike Smith, of Guernsey, 21-17. He was 7-12 and 10-17 down against Fong and 5-15 down against Smith. On the last end Fong held three shots for victory but Corsie removed them all with a drive.

Corsie, who plays Thomson this evening, said he was disappointed with the way he was playing, but he was wise enough to make the point that the time to start talking about possible gold medal winners would probably be next Tuesday.

Wendy Line, of England, beat Ann Dainton, of Wales, 21-13 in the women's singles. Mrs Line plays Scotland's representative, Seema McCrone, today.

England lost all their four matches in the morning. Those well-known brothers from Cromer, Chris and David Ward, went down 19-21 to Lyn Perkins and Spencer Wilshire, of Wales, and Pip Bradford's rink failed by the same margin — 17-19 — against the Welsh side skipped by Jim Morgan.

Much the same fate befell the English women's pairs and fours against Guernsey and Australia. But defeat at this stage matters less than it might later, since each event is run on a league system and up to 11 matches remain in which to repair any early damage.

The Welshman, Chris Ross and Lyndon Williams, looked like beating Bill Thompson and Rikki Keag in straight games. That helped Wales to a 3-2 win over Northern Ireland, who beat them in the European championships.

One suspects that England are still vulnerable to Scotland and Wales in the men's doubles, just as they were when they beaten the Thomson Cup earlier in the year.

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Smith's easy win in Games regatta

England row into sculling final

By Jim Railton



The regatta opened at the County Park in Strathclyde yesterday with six races in the men's sculling events, aimed at eliminating four crews from the Commonwealth Games competition. The unlucky scullers were Jim Sloane, of Scotland, and Leslie Grech, of Gibraltar, in the lightweight single sculls, of Northern Ireland, and Stuart Bensenden, of Gibraltar, in the heavyweight singles. Lightweight singles sculler Carl Smith opened up England's account with an easy victory qualifying directly for today's final.

Smith is the first winner of a Commonwealth regatta event for 24 years. The last time rowing was included in the programme was in Perth in 1962.

But the class lightweight sculler yesterday was Peter Antonio, of Australia, who went off first and led to finish, with almost five lengths to spare over Peter Tattersall, of Canada. Antonio's time beat the Commonwealth Games record

for heavyweight single sculls set by Stuart Mackenzie, of Australia, on Llyn Padarn in Wales in 1958, by more than 7sec.

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Auckland men beat favourites

By Richard Eaton



The burden of being expected to win all six gold medals looked heavy when the men's favourites Andy Goode and Nigel Tier were defeated by the New Zealanders yesterday.

It may not matter very much because the European women's doubles champions, Gill Clark and Gillian Gowers, were soon completing a winning 3-1 lead with a straight games win over Karin Lockey and Karen Phillips. Afterwards, Tier admitted he was unwell.

It was a magnificent effort by Gurnee Robson and Phil Horne, who are the British Airways Masters champions. Horne does not play on the world Grand Prix circuit and Robson had to spend his own money to do so.

One suspects that England are still vulnerable to Scotland and Wales in the men's doubles, just as they were when they beaten the Thomson Cup earlier in the year.

The Welshman, Chris Ross and Lyndon Williams, looked like beating Bill Thompson and Rikki Keag in straight games. That helped Wales to a 3-2 win over Northern Ireland, who beat them in the European championships.

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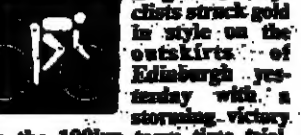
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Storming to a win and gold

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REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 Wales, 7.10-7.15pm: 7.10-7.15pm Sports News Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland News and Sport. South-West — Spotlight and news. All other English regions — Regional news and sport.

CHANNEL 4 London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm. Granada As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

TVS As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

CENTRAL As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

TSW As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

BORDER As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

SCOTTISH As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

HTV WEST As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

HTV WALES As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

ANGLIA As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

SAC As London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

SUNDAY

BBC1 Wales, 12.35-12.45pm: 12.35-12.45pm Sports News Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland News and Sport. South-West — Spotlight and news. All other English regions — Regional news and sport.

CHANNEL 4 London except: 2.30pm-3.00pm Survival of the Fittest 11.25-12.00pm On the Edge 12.40-1.15pm Early Start 1.25-2.00pm.

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SPORT

Taylor call-up sets poor precedent

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S New Zealand, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 180 runs behind England.

Slow progress was made yesterday in the first Test match, sponsored by Cornhill, with New Zealand again having rather the better of things. Having bowled England out for 307 they replied with 127 for two, after being at one time five for two.

Injuries prevented French from keeping wicket for England and Willey from bowling. French not knowing quite where he was after being hit while batting and Willey twisting the knee which already carries so many of the scars of battle, French's place was taken, most unconventionally, by Bob Taylor, who was on the ground in his capacity as a public relations assistant for the sponsors.

Thought had been given to bringing Richards across from the Oval, where he was playing for Surrey, but that idea was abandoned. Instead, Athey kept wicket for two overs before Taylor made his somewhat sentimental entry. On the form he showed he is probably still, even at 45 and out of practice, just about the best in the business.

He saw at first hand what hard work England find it these days getting anyone out. It is an easy enough pitch, but at the start of New Zealand's innings it was sufficiently cloudy and humid for the ball to move about quite appreciably. England could well have made deeper inroads there than they did. It was not Dillie's fault that they failed to. Edgar took a long time digging himself in for New Zealand, but he was playing very well by the end and Martin Crowe is so good that he was seldom in trouble.

England's last five wickets had added 59, as many as could be expected from a side with the Middlesex No 8 at No 7, Nottinghamshire's No 9 at No 8, Kent's No 11 at No 9, Essex's No 9 at No 10 and Worcestershire's No 10 at No 11... especially when Willey was out after 40 minutes having added only 17 to his overnight score, and French had to retire hurt. For the seventh time in 10 Test in-

nings Hadlee took five wickets or more. He finished with six for 80 in 37.5 overs, having delighted even the most fastidious of old-timers by performing his wonders off a short run and mostly to a full length.

As a member of the same county side as Hadlee, French might have been expected to know what to expect from him. Perhaps, that being so, he would have feared the worst. It was not a bouncer so much as a short ball which hit him. Hadlee dug it in, intending it to lift, and it did so. As French turned away, he was hit on the back of the helmet. An anxious 10 minutes followed. French seemed to be shaking off the blow when he collapsed, much to the concern of those around him.

Among other former England wicketkeepers on the ground were Geoffrey Evans, John Murray, Jim Parks and Alan Smith. Also present were some who recalled Frank Woolley taking his place before Les Ames was injured. Woolley allowed 37 byes in Australia's second innings. I remember Peter Parfitt making a perfectly good job of standing in for Murray at Sydney in 1962-63, when Murray injured a shoulder taking a catch at the start of Australia's first innings. For an outsider to take the gloves in a Test match, as Taylor did now, is, so far as I know, unprecedented.

By the time New Zealand scored a run off the bat, in the seventh over of their innings, they had lost Wright and Rutherford, both to Dillie. Wright played on, the ball hurrying through too fast for him, and Gooch caught Rutherford at second slip and at the second attempt. Eleven overs passed before Edgar made his first run, by when bad light had held up the innings for 20 minutes. At tea, with 16 overs bowled, New Zealand were 30 for two, only Martin Crowe having put bat to ball.

The longer the day went on the more Taylor looked to be enjoying himself and the better Edgar played. In the last hour, when the sun was out, there began to seem to be no good reason why New Zealand should not take a useful lead.

FOOTBALL

Ipswich agree terms for Butcher

Ipswich Town have agreed terms with Glasgow Rangers for the transfer of Terry Butcher. Rangers appear to have pipped Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United in the race for the England defender with their cash offer of just over £700,000.

If the deal goes through, the money will considerably reduce Ipswich's overdraft, but now it is up to Butcher to agree personal terms. Butcher said: "My wife and I would be more than willing to set up home north of the border as long as they meet my terms. I will be 28 soon and a

four-year contract will see me through what will probably be my best playing years." **ASCOLI:** Liam Brady, the Irish international midfielder, has signed a one-year contract with the Italian first division club, Ascoli, following his departure from Inter Milan.

Comeback for a good cause
From Gerry Harrison Pasadena, California

"Pat Jennings, who has been trying to retire gracefully for years, will be back in the firing line tomorrow night, facing Diego Maradona and a squad of South American talent."

He is playing for the Rest of the World against the Americas in the Rose Bowl to assist UNICEF, the United Nations children's fund.

Jennings, aged 41, the world's most capped player, with 119 international appearances, cheerfully admits that he hasn't touched a football since the World Cup. "I am only here because it is a great honour to be picked and it is a good cause. But had it been staged a couple of months later I wouldn't have played. You can't fool around at this level and I've retired."

Also in Jennings's squad are Gordon Strachan (Manchester United) and Terry Butcher, who made a few friends in high places through the speed with which he agreed to fly out here as a replacement for the injured Forster, of West Germany.

But FIFA are annoyed that players like Gary Lineker (Barcelona), Platini and Laudrup (Juventus), who wanted to appear, have not been released by their clubs.

However, the attraction of Maradona and a number of his World Cup winning team with five Brazilians for local colour, has ensured television coverage from 65 countries and a guaranteed minimum \$250,000 (about £167,000) for the Mexican earthquake disaster fund.

does, it would be unreasonable for their last five batsmen to be exempt from having to face short-pitched bowling. At No 8 in the original order, French had to face the music. His mishap may prompt the England selectors to see the need to start blooding an all-rounder or two.

I can only think it was because he had French's injury on his conscience, which he had no need to do, that Coney, New Zealand's captain, agreed to England's wicket being kept by Taylor. This seemed to me to be a wholly undesirable precedent. Needless to say, Taylor kept wicket beautifully, though his doing so in a Test match should never have been countenanced.

Competition in the Commonwealth Games began amid more difficulties yesterday with the organizers encountering problems with the results and communications service so essential to the smooth running of a major event. Wige-Data, the West German company who were providing the service, were so frustrated because dust had got into their equipment that they almost pulled out of Edinburgh.

Workmen who have been

striving to get the Games shipshape used saws on the wood and asbestos partitions close to the sensitive areas used for computing the results. Wilhelm Gerner, owner of Wige-Data, said yesterday: "We have had to stop work for eight hours and that means our computer programming is also eight hours behind. It is the worst situation I have encountered anywhere in Europe. We will be back to full operation by tomorrow."

One of the events that has been hit hardest by the boy-

cotts are the lightest events in the weight-lifting. In the under-52kg trials there were only three competitors, but Scotland, the host nation, who had two lifters in the division, still failed to win the gold medal. The title went to the Australian, Greg Hayman, with a total for the snatch and clean and jerk of 212.5 kilos. He finished 27.5 kilos ahead of the leading Scot, Charlie Revolta.

Top athletes forced out of the Games by the mass boycott have been invited to an international meeting in

Gateshead on August 5. The Great Britain v Commonwealth match was originally designed as a follow-up to the Edinburgh Games but the British Amateur Athletic Board have decided to include boycotted stars in the Commonwealth team. Two top 400m runners, Bert Cameron, the world champion from Jamaica, and Innocent Egbunike, of Nigeria, plus the Jamaican sprinter, Grace Jackson, have already been confirmed for the match.

Results, page 30

HORSE TRIALS

Top names for event in Cumbria

By Jenny MacArthur

Virginia Leng, the world champion, and Lucinda Green, the former world champion, are among the formidable list of entries for this weekend's Croft Original Holker Hall horse trials in Cumbria. The event, which begins today with six novice sections, was started five years ago but in that time Tony Evans's big well-built courses, together with the good parkland going, have made it a favourite with the riders. Captain Mark Phillips, Princess Anne, Ian Stark and Robert Lennie are among those competing.

For most of the advanced horses the event is part of the build-up to the autumn three-day event. Mrs Leng's 13-year-old Night Cap, who is in tomorrow's advanced class, is heading for the international three-day event in Poland in September. Mrs Green's two advanced rides, Shanagh and Brass Monkey, are destined respectively for next month's Luhmühlen three-day event in West Germany and for Gatcombe.

Captain Phillips intends to run both Distinctive and Carlier across country tomorrow. Distinctive's chief objective are the Scottish championships on August 24 and the Polish three-day event.

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CYCLING

Hinault bows to relaxed LeMond

From John Wilcockson, Clermont Ferrand

"I feel I've finally won it," sighed a relaxed, very relaxed, Greg LeMond after finishing the 21st stage of the Tour de France at the 5,000 ft summit of the stunningly beautiful Puy de Dome mountain, exactly six minutes behind Eric Maechler, the stage winner of Switzerland, but 52sec ahead of Bernard Hinault, his only remaining rival. The American, aged 26, now leads the Tour by more than three minutes, with only two stages left before the finish on the Champs Elysees tomorrow.

Maechler and five other men reached the foot of the three-mile, one in eight climb of the Puy de Dome more than six minutes ahead of the main group after breaking clear 28 miles earlier. In the group was Martin Eariery from Dublin, who has won two races earlier this year with similar mountain top finishes, one in the Tour of the Basque country, the other in the Tour of Italy. "I used my brains to get in the break," explained Eariery, who attacked twice earlier in the 118-mile stage from St Etienne that traversed the delightfully green hills of the Auvergne on a perfect day of blue skies and no wind.

Working well together, the six riders quickly established the three minute lead on the main group, in which the

TENNIS

A match worth winning

From Richard Evans Prague

As a piece of one-upmanship there was nothing to beat it. In the middle of a Federation Cup competition that had, until yesterday, been totally dominated by Martina Navratilova's return to her homeland, Hana Mandlikova jumped the queue at the Prague Town Hall and got married.

When asked by a puzzled Czech journalist how she had managed to arrange this on the spur of the moment, as marriages usually have to be booked three months in advance, she replied: "There is only one Hana Mandlikova."

Robert Millar, of Scotland, finally had to give beat to the illness that has handicapped him for the past five days and he pulled out of the race 25 miles from the end yesterday.

At last, Hinault has conceded that LeMond is a worthy winner of the Tour. The star of the race stated: "If I had not ridden as hard as I did Greg would have had a hollow victory."

Miss Navratilova beat Raffaella Reggi 6-2, 6-4. That was just as well for the United States, as Chris Lloyd had been beaten for the first time over in Federation Cup singles play, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 by Sandra Cecchini.

Later, Martina had little difficulty in reclaiming the

lightning when she and Pam Shriver ended Italy's hopes with a 6-3, 6-1 win against Miss Reggi and Laura Garrone.

RACING

Dancing Brave doubtful for Ascot rematch

Dancing Brave's participation in today's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes is in doubt after rain at Ascot yesterday morning.

Guy Harwood, the colt's trainer, said at Ascot yesterday: "The horse is in tremendous form and we want to run him but the ground is good to soft at the moment. It wouldn't have to be a lot worse for him not to run."

"If it stays as it is today, he would take his chance but if there is heavy overnight rain we would have to consider withdrawing him. If the weather forecast is right, then he'll run."

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre said yesterday evening: "It should stay dry overnight at Ascot, but there are likely to be some spells of rain tomorrow, probably from mid-morning, but I doubt if they'll be heavy."

Racing, p27-28

SPORT IN BRIEF

McEnroe in groove

John McEnroe, after a break of six months, forced Ivan Lendl, the world No. 1, into a tiebreak in the final set before losing 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 in the Forum Chamber Series in Inglewood, California, on Tuesday night. "I played well, on-sidering," McEnroe said. He is rated No. 7 in the world despite his absence from the game while Tatum O'Neal, the actress, gave birth to their baby boy. The boisterous crowd was clearly behind McEnroe until he faltered in the final tiebreak to give Lendl the £75,000 winner's cheque.

Knockout drop

The World Boxing Council are investigating claims by Mexican promoters that Rene Arredondo was given a sedative before he was knocked out by Tsuyoshi Hamada, of Japan, in their junior-welterweight title bout on Wednesday in Mexico City. José Sulaiman, the WBC president, said he was told by the Mexicans that Arredondo fell asleep before the fight after eating some food and then had vomited when he was woken up.

Poor England

England were defeated 22-6 by Australia in the third place play-off to return home empty-handed from the world men's lacrosse championships in Toronto.

Wolves offer

Wolverhampton Council have made an £1.1 million offer to buy Molineux stadium.

John Bird, the council



Heading for gold: the England cycling team in yesterday's 100km team trial (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Wigg at helm

Simon Wigg, of Oxford, will captain England in the speedway World Team Cup next month against Denmark, the champions, Sweden and the United States. Jeremy Doncaster (Ipswich), Neil Everts (Bradford), Chris Morton (Belle Vue) and Kelvin Tatum (Coventry) - complete England's team for the matches in Göteborg, Vojens and Bradford.

Daho waits

Najib Daho will learn early next week whether his IBF world super-featherweight title bout in Manchester on August 23 against Barry Michael, of Australia, is to be recognized by the British Board, members of the rival WBA and WBC bodies. Barry McGuigan at Old Trafford is a possible prize for the winner.

Lighter load

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has agreed to lend Clapton Football Club £3,000 until a Sports Council grant in October is processed to bring their lighting to Vauxhall Opel League standard.

Coe has drive to beat years

DAVID MILLER

Sebastian Coe stood on the track in Los Angeles with Steve Ovett after the Olympic 800m final and remarked that they were becoming too old for it. Yet here is Coe, two years later and a month off 30, gearing himself to attempt the Commonwealth title at 800m, which he has never attempted, and the European title, which has twice eluded him. Moreover, in both championships he is also contesting the 1500m for the first time. What still gives him the will to run?

He is past that point, at these two distances, in a great runner's career when the motive is, as Steve Cram recently described it, "I just want to be better and better - in time and against other runners." Circumstances often shape motivation.

Cram admits that defeat by Coe in the 1500m in Los Angeles helped drive him towards his record-breaking sequence last year side by side with Said Aouita, comparable to Coe's exceptional spells in 1979 and 1981. Coe's illness in 1982-83, during which Cram won the Commonwealth, European and World titles at 1500m, contributed to his

motivation in recovering to retain his Olympic title.

A back injury last year prevented Coe moving up to 5,000m: expediency therefore finds him pacing his ground in what should be the outstanding double duel of the Games in Edinburgh. When Bannister beat Lundy in 1953, who there were few nations who have since then seen here, did anybody say the Games were a disaster?

"I have to face the fact that I'm giving away four or five years to my rivals, but I can't be bitter about the last years of '82-83, which should have been my best, when I was 27-28," Coe says. "I should have been stronger then through being older, and quicker than in 1981. As it is now, I think from the available evidence, I can win medals in both events at both championships."

Coe continues to plan much of his training with his father, who feels that his son's attitude of mind enables him, in the same way as Mike Bolt of Kenya, to maintain his short-distance speed when approaching 30. Peter Coe stresses that it would be a mistake to believe there is only one man to beat in Edinburgh or Stuttgart, but reckons Cram is the one to beat for the gold medal.

The general opinion in track circles is that Cram should win both events in Edinburgh and the 1500m in Stuttgart. He has looked stridently powerful in recent weeks, even though he concedes he can never hope to threaten Coe's 1981 record for 800m of 1:41.73. Yet Coe's recent 1,000m, the seventh fastest ever, makes for a fascinating scenario.

Since the 800m in Edinburgh is unlikely to reach the searing quality of heats in Los Angeles, a probable Scottish final, with Elliott making his

early running, may mean Cram to go for a long finishing run from 300m with Coe's shoulder. Each has had a recent final 200m burst of just over 25 seconds.

"I'm not worrying about tactics; I think I can cope with whatever happens," Coe says. He is not yet at a peak, aiming that for Stuttgart, but disconcertingly thinks he is "not in bad shape". Cram says that he would rather be remembered for championships he won than for records. Coe is there to stop him over the next five weeks.

Peter Coe, without being specific, thinks the stronger bid could be the 1500m. "There are more variables in the 800m" - and has been careful not to overload recovery-time in training interval-running. Whether or not there are gold medals this summer, the excitement is that training times suggest a capacity to challenge Aouita in next year's world championship 5,000m. Peter Coe is wondering whether the duties of two and a half days a week as deputy chairman of the Sports Council will permit his son the necessary extra mileage.

For the moment, Cram will be wanting revenge for Los Angeles. Coe, who has refused to become publicly involved, would no doubt like to answer, on the track, Cram's gratuitous criticisms of his running programme. There will be no spare seats at Meadowbank next Thursday and Saturday.

Racing, p27-28

Qu
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Puffin
-Gold-

Thursday's £8,000
Daily Prize in The
Puffin Gold
competition was shared
by readers: Mr R G
Waters of North
Nottingham, Mr A
Hartley of London,
Mrs D Bannock of
Barnsley, Mr J Black
of Devon, Mr J
Hogson of Radford,
Country, Mrs M Gale
of Sharncliffe,
Mrs J. and Mr M
Ward of Salisbury,
Wals.

The daily prize of
£800 was shared by
readers: Mr R G
Waters of North
Nottingham, Mr A
Hartley of London,
Mrs D Bannock of
Barnsley, Mr J Black
of Devon, Mr J
Hogson of Radford,
Country, Mrs M Gale
of Sharncliffe,
Mrs J. and Mr M
Ward of Salisbury,
Walsbury, Oxford.

There is a further
£800 to be won today
in the Puffin Gold
competition. How to
win and how to play.
Information page 16.

Nuclear bill

There is a further
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Schools crisis

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Crash toll up

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Degree results

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